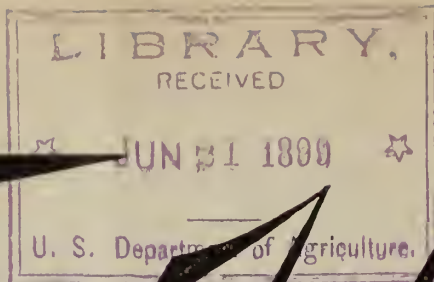


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A FEW HENS

THE POULTRY PAPER FOR BEGINNERS.

VOL. 2.

BOSTON, MASS., JUNE 15, 1899.

NO. 12.

Your Subscription Ended

for this paper, possibly with the last issue of A FEW HENS. If so, and you renew, you will get fifty per cent. more matter the coming year, as the paper will contain twelve pages instead of eight. The price will remain the same, 25 cents, as before. Kindly favor us at once with your renewal, sending 25 cents for same, in cash or postage stamps.

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Either of the above offers we believe give more real practical value for the money than can be gotten anywhere else.

Send all money and subscriber's address, name, post office and state, (plainly written), in full to

A FEW HENS, Box 2118, Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL HINTS.

Excelsior!
Forge ahead.
Aim to excel.
Vol. II closed.
Don't get lazy.
Be progressive.
Don't overreach.
Be up and doing.
Just two years old.
Aim for perfection.
Kill off the drones.
Use common sense.
Encourage the boy.
Women for poultry.
Read—study—learn.
Don't lose your grip.
Give strict attention.
Lazy man, lazy fowls.
The all-wise are dead.
Protect from the heat.
Gentleness is a virtue.
Treat the hens kindly.
Don't build air castles.
Rough man, wild hens.
Feed the lice with filth.
Put off's hens never lay.
Keep the premises neat.
Drive away "the blues."
Don't be a back number.
Exposure has its results.
Watch the small matters.
Renew your subscription.
Are you making headway?
Overcrowd to your sorrow.
Are you easily discouraged?
Dispose of the irritable hens.
Slovenly ways are to be despised.

Experimental Farm Notes.

*Trap Nests Again—Rhode Island Reds
—Silver Wyandottes—Incubator House
—The Egg Yield and Retail Prices
for the Month of April.*

A FEW HENS readers seem to be greatly interested in our test of trap nests, and we have on our desk quite a number of valuable letters containing suggestions, comments, etc., to which we will refer in our editorial columns.

Dr. S. A. McWilliams, Chicago, Ills., sends a model of a nest trap that is not only practical, but very simple in construction. To this we will also editorially refer.

Since last issue, the nests that have given the best satisfaction are the Uneeda, "A FEW HENS Nest Trap," and Mr. Geishaker's "Ball Bearings" Nest Trap.

The American Trap Nest Box, sent us by J. A. Woodhead, Leicester, Mass., has not yet had a thorough trial. It is in a pen occupied by Wyandottes, and to date the hens have not taken to it very kindly. This, however, is caused by having a number of other nests in the same apartment. It is a fact that hens are very slow to accept a new nest if the old ones are still in use. Poultrymen often find three and four hens crowding on one nest while a half dozen or more nests are unoccupied. We can say the American Trap Nest is practical.

The Reliable Nest Box is in our Brahma pen, but as it is necessary for the hen to fly up to the nest, we find considerable difficulty in getting our Brahmas used to it. They will insist on laying *under* the nest. This, however, is due more to the fact that our Brahmas are not in the habit of flying high. Our roosts in their pens are about six inches above ground, and the fowls are compelled at no time to use their wings. We intend placing the Reliable in one of our Wyandotte pens. We believe it will just suit their fancy. We must say we like the Reliable, but cannot give it our full endorsement until we have given it a more thorough trial.

The Rhode Island Red eggs sent us by Prof. Samuel Cushman, Pawtucket,

R. I., gave an excellent hatch. Forty-five chicks out of 60 eggs is a very good showing. There were more chicks in the remaining eggs, but one of the hens was reckless and left the eggs at a critical time.

R. G. Buffinton, Fall River, Mass., also a prominent breeder of Rhode Island Reds, forwarded us a sitting of fine looking eggs, but we will not be able to report good results. After sitting two weeks on the eggs the hen died. When found she was in a most natural position, and no one looking at her would suppose her to be dead. There is no telling how long she was dead, but it must easily have been a day and a night. The eggs were very cold. Having a broody hen at the time, we gave the eggs to her, but we very much fear they are injured. In a few days we will know.

We are very well pleased with the chicks we got from the eggs sent us by Prof. Cushman. They are a pretty light buff color, and we never saw more sprightly chicks. At the same age, they are somewhat larger than the White Wyandottes.

Leonard Woods, of the Woods Egg-Holder Co., St. Louis, Mo., in order to test his "Fancier's Favorite" egg carrier on a long distance, sent us a sitting of eggs from his Silver Wyandottes. The eggs came in perfect order, and from them we hatched six fine, strong chicks. If we can secure enough pullets from the lot, we will compare their practical qualities with our White Wyandottes.

Some months ago we referred to an incubator house which we were constructing. After making a start on it we were compelled to stop work owing to a number of other duties that were pressing. The building is now complete, and before another issue we will give it a test with our incubators. The house measures 10 x 26 feet, and is built alongside the feed and cook house. There is a loft overhead for the double purpose of making a good place to store things as well as to break the heat of the roof. The floor, sides and ceiling of the room are lined with Neponset paper, and the roof of the building is made of

Neponsset tacked to hemlock boards. There are five half-window sash in the incubator room, and three half-sash in the loft. The windows open at the top, thus avoiding drafts. In our next issue we hope to be able to give a full report of what we think will be the cheapest as well as one of the best incubator rooms that could be built.

During April of this year our Light Brahmas laid 548 eggs; White Wyandottes, 729 eggs; Single Comb White Leghorns, 328 eggs; Pekin ducks, 158 eggs. This made a total of 1763 eggs for the month, or a daily average of a fraction less than 59 eggs. The highest number of eggs laid in one day was 69, and the lowest number 44.

Of eggs retailed, the highest price we received was 16 cents; lowest price, 14 cents; average, 13 cents.

Eggs and Egg Farming.

Heavy Shipments from Kansas—A Good Record for Common Hens—The Wonders of an Egg—Heavy Laying—Extra Laying by a Pen of A FEW HENS—Light Brahmas—A Large Kansas Packing House—How Filthy Taints the Egg—Dishonesty in Egg Shipments to Market—The Color of the Shell.

Prices are down.

The market is steady.

Contentment is an egg tonic.

Make the hens "feel at home."

A dissatisfied hen is a poor layer.

Refuse the trade of the cold storage man. Gather eggs several times a day, and thus avoid broken eggs in the nest.

The Chicago Record says the Kansas hens produced \$4,145,733 worth of eggs and meat last year.

Iowa Homestead says producing eggs is an art, and the man will make the most out of it who understands the art best.

Mr. Collingwood says there is no animal mixture under the sun so intricate, so compact, so full of power and force as the egg.

The cold storage man gives you money today for your product, and next winter he takes it from you with compound interest.

P. H. Jacobs places the average egg record for all the pullets and hens in the United States at 50 eggs per year. The estimate is entirely too low—just about one-half what it really is.

A Wichita, Kansas, firm ships 500 cars of poultry and eggs annually to New York, Philadelphia, and other eastern cities, where it has contracts to supply steamship companies, hotels and marketmen.

The American Stock Keeper says the color of eggs for sale in the markets of the country being now darker than 20 years ago, simply proves that Asiatic blood has been largely introduced throughout the country, and that it has its effect on the egg.

Willie Mitts, Raymond, Ills., writes A FEW HENS that he owns 60 common hens, and during February they laid 63 eggs; March, 447; April, 734. Making a total of 1,244 eggs in 89 days. Besides, during April, from 5 to 10

hens were constantly sitting or caring for chicks.

H. W. Collingwood, in Rural New-Yorker, says we seldom stop to think what an egg represents. Think of our little friend (the hen) gathering, mixing and putting together in organic form, 650 grains of water, 125 grains of fat, 108 grains of lime, 80 grains of albumen, 26 grains of sugar, and 10 grains of ash.

E. D. & G. W. Babcock, Philadelphia, N. Y., claim that during the season of 1897 and 1898, 300 birds in 10 pens of their scratching shed house laid in December, 2821; January, 4069; February, 4565; March, 6883; April, 6209; May, 5170; June, 3874; July, 3915; August, 3939; September, 3306; October, 2395; November, 1357. In October they sold some of the hens and replaced them with early-hatched pullets, which had commenced to lay. During April, May, June and July, they had from 30 to 50 hens from these pens, setting and raising chicks. This is a remarkable record, being an average for each hen of 160 eggs per year.

Under date of May 8th, David W. Lawton, Winsted, Conn., writes A FEW HENS: "Last December I bought a breeding pen of Light Brahmas of you, consisting of three hens and a cockerel. They were said to be from a fine laying strain. In proof of this I wish to say that yesterday I got four eggs from the three hens—between the hours of 7 a. m., and 3 p. m. This is a fact. No error in any way, as the hens are entirely by themselves, and we gather the eggs for breeding purposes several times a day. Now if you, or Mr. Felch, or Mr. Silberstein, can beat that, please let me know and I will try again. Till then I will keep steadily at work along the lines of breeding for eggs."

The Chicago Record says a large packing house in Winfield, Kansas, handled 80,000 cases of eggs last year, 30 dozen to the case, which means 2,400,000 dozens, or 28,800,000 eggs. Every one of those eggs were carefully inspected in a dark room, where rows of young men were sitting behind a couple of holes in the wall just big enough to admit the end of an egg. Taking up two eggs in each hand with a dexterity due to long experience, the testers would turn them quickly toward the light for an instant, and then drop them into different boxes that stood at their sides. In one box went the perfect eggs, in another those that were dirty or doubtful, and in the third those which the late Bill Nye would describe as having insufficient ventilation.

The shell of an egg is porous, and any offensive matter on it quickly finds its way, by odor at least, to the albumen within, and soon affects it injuriously, says the American Cultivator. Care should be taken to allow no excrement of hens in nests where they lay their eggs. Neither should hens be allowed to make nests in manure piles, as they are quite apt to do, as the heating of manure will often start the germ if the egg is left too long in the nest, and the quickened germ will perish when removed from the warmth that

started it into life. We are always suspicious of discolored eggs, which show that they have laid in contact with the excrement of fowls. Such eggs are undesirable, even though they show careful washing to remove the stains, for the washing may have been done after the germ had quickened, or may even have killed the young chick, making the egg worthless even for setting. As a rule, eggs that are very badly soiled usually addle when they are set upon. The chick gets a disgust with life while in the shell and dies there.

Honest shipments mean continued good business. Here is a case of dishonesty as told by Mr. Valentine, in Rural New-Yorker: "I am going to open a crate of nice White Leghorn eggs, if you want to see them," said one commission man. Taking off the cover, first there was a layer of excelsior over the top, then followed newspapers, fitting snugly over the fillers. These removed, there came into view the beautiful, white, even-size Leghorn eggs. 'Are not those beauties?' was the inquiry. 'I get several crates from this shipper twice a week, but I often find a lot of brown eggs mixed into the lower layers. Some of my customers who have bought these eggs for White Leghorn eggs, paying a little extra price, have made a big kick, because they do not find just what they had bought.' It is very strange, isn't it? that a man who is building up a reputation, will indulge in such practices; but I see so much of that sort of business, and find these practices sometimes, in such unexpected quarters, that I almost lose confidence in any and all shippers."

A FEW HENS has repeatedly said, the color of the shell has nothing to do with the quality of the contents of the egg. Is it reasonable to suppose that a brown egg, made from impure food, will be as rich as a white egg from pure food, and vice-versa? Iowa Homestead gives a few valuable remarks on this subject: An egg may differ materially in color and yet not differ much in nutriment. Again, they may differ largely in nutriment, as when the hens are neglected or poorly fed or when they eat filth, damaged grain or meat. The stomach is a wonderful transformer, but the crop and gizzard of a hen cannot transform impure food into pure products. The real value of an egg for food lies inside the shell.

BEATS "OLD SCRATCH"

If a hen had fingers and finger nails she'd wear them off trying to relieve herself from annoyance by lice. Why don't you relieve her and allow her to devote all her time to the egg business? How? Use

Lee's Lice Killer.



It's so easy too. No catching or handling of the fowls. Just paint it on the roosts or sprinkle it on the dropping boards, nests, floor, &c., and it's done; all head or body lice, mites, &c., are dead. It's cheap too; only costs 75c. for a gallon can. Get it from our agent. If there is no agent there get it yourself and be an agent. They make money. Book on "Insects" and poultry disease free. GEO. H. LEE CO. Omaha, Neb. or 68 Murray St. New York.

About Broilers and Roasters.

Quotations from Dr. Woods's Article on Drawn and Undrawn Poultry—Mr. Robinson Defends Western Poultry—Hurrying the Broiler too Fast—Uniformity of Size and Color—Poultry Shipment to Manila—An Opinion on a Common Method of Killing—The Best Table Fowl.

Aim to please.

Pack carefully.

Attract the eye.

Market regularly.

Take pride in your shipments.

Keep the fattening coop clean.

Let "Gilt-Edge" be your motto.

Are you going to try summer broilers?

A satisfied customer invariably returns.

Never pack the poultry until *thoroughly* cooled.

The crop must be empty when shipping dressed poultry to market.

See that the fowl is properly bled that the carcass may be well drained of blood.

The floor of the fattening coop should be so arranged that the manure will drop through.

In France they mix spices and herbs with the feed given to fattening poultry, and they are said to impart a delicious flavor to the meat.

A FEW HENS has always contended that there was more danger in drawn than undrawn poultry, and we are glad to see Dr. Woods come out in *Farm-Poultry* and practically endorse the views we have taken.

It is imperative in preparing poultry for market that the birds should be confined in a clean coop with absolutely no food for 24 hours or more before killing; they should have plenty of water to drink, which aids in cleansing the intestines.

Iowa *Homestead* says some people are in such a hurry to have their chicks grow to broiler size that they begin stuffing them with any and everything they will eat, and usually end by losing the majority of the flock by indigestion or bowel trouble. Then they will look wise and talk about cholera, damp weather, etc., when the trouble really was too rich food fed too early in life.

John H. Robinson, in *Farm-Poultry*, takes the editor to task for casting a slur upon western shipments of poultry to eastern markets, and in support gives facts, figures and interviews. Some of the finest dressed poultry we have yet seen in the markets comes from the west, and we congratulate our western friends and subscribers upon that fact. A few years ago the same "indictment" was laid at the door of New Jersey, yet "Philadelphia" chickens are popular:

In marketing chickens select those of same size and color—as near alike in all respects as possible. Fowls should be sorted like apples, says Texas *Farm and Ranch*. The chief value of pure bred fowls for the general markets is found in their uniformity. One scrub chicken in a coop will affect the price of the whole dozen, and often the lot will sell for more money if the scrub is removed. There is as much opportunity for the exercise of a sound dis-

cretion in marketing as in growing fowls.

Dr. Woods claims the undrawn carcass is objectionable because of the possibility of osmosis carrying taint or poisonous matter to the flesh. This point is exaggerated by writers of hygiene, and those who favor market poultry. Granted that in some cases where fowls are not properly handled, there exists a possibility of infection of the meat, it is not half so dangerous as the many chances of infection in drawn fowls. As a matter of fact, where the bird is properly handled before killing, the chance of infection is practically *nil*.

We cannot control the carcass after it leaves our hands to go to market says Dr. Woods. If it is drawn, and has any distance to go, it may mould inside; or if a fly does not "blow" in it, there is a large exposed surface hidden from sight, which may become infected by some means during transit. If mouldy, sour, or fly blown (if it travels any distance it is pretty sure to be one of these, or all three), it is no longer saleable, at least for anything like a fair price, and it is not desirable as food.

Richard Miles, of Little Rock, Ark., send A FEW HENS the following extract from an evening local paper: W. Theo. Smith says—"I was up at Batesville Sunday, and saw a sight that had more than ordinary interest. It was a carload of chickens, 4,097 by actual count, consigned by Goodwin, Jean & Co., of that city, to Admiral George Dewey, Manila, by way of San Francisco. The consignment will be accompanied as far as 'Frisco by O. S. Goodwin. The freight was \$445. The chickens cost on an average of \$2.50, and will be rather expensive eating when they reach the Philippines."

The *Human Alliance* says: "Poultry killed with the heads on are made to suffer a terrible, cruel and lingering death. The method is to stab them slightly in the roof of the mouth, and then hang them up by the feet to bleed to death. The torture affects the meat, which should be avoided by all careful of their health. Humane people will decline to deal with a dealer who keeps poultry killed in this barbarous manner." To this the *Baltimore Sun* adds: Poultry suffer also unnecessarily for want of sufficient drinking water while they are exposed for sale in crowded conditions in low coops in cities. These coops are often placed in the direct sun rays for hours, causing extreme suffering.

Dr. Woods "hits the nail upon the head" in the following selection from his article in *Farm-Poultry*: "In dealing with market poultry we have to deal with many unknown factors. So far as I am concerned, I had rather take my chances on an undrawn fowl, no matter how poorly handled before being killed, than to have a fowl that had had the filthy fingers of some person unknown (perhaps diseased) scratching about tearing out the entrails, and following up the operation with washing out the carcass with not overclean water. The chances of in-

fection from such sources are far more numerous than any that may exist from the intestinal contents and possible osmosis. Again, if the intestines are left in, you have the opportunity of learning something about the fowl's condition at the time it was killed, and whether or not it was healthy."

As a matter of fact, the flesh of one well-cared-for chicken or turkey, is as good as that of another, says an exchange. It is doubtful if the most particular epicure could ever tell whether a certain piece had come from a Plymouth Rock or a pit game, so far as the taste of the flesh is concerned. What we mean by the best table fowl, is that one which has the heaviest weight of meat on those portions of the body which are favorite cuts. The breast and thighs must be heavy in a good table fowl. In order to have thick breast meat and big thighs these muscles must be used by the fowl. In other words, the flyer and scratcher will prove to be the best table fowl, for their lively habits give the muscles of the legs and breast work to do that renders them firm and fine, instead of leaving them flabby and full of loose tissues in the shape of fat.

The marketmen are in the business for what there is in it, and it is for their interest to keep and sell the best. It is necessary to expose their goods for sale, and a carcass of drawn poultry hung in the market stall makes an ideal place for a fly to get into the abdominal cavity out of sight, and deposit its eggs, says Dr. Woods. The result is that the customer finds the carcass "fly blown" or worse,—maggoty. The result is not pleasing to the marketman or the purchaser. As a matter of fact, opening up the abdominal cavity and removing the viscera exposes a larger surface to bacteria infection, while in the undrawn fowl the infection if any is confined in the intestines, except such of the objectionable matter which may pass through the walls of the intestines by osmosis. If poultry is properly handled before killing, and is properly cooled before packing, there will be very little if any contamination from the empty intestines.

W. and Barred Ply. Rocks. Fine stock; heavy layers. Eggs, \$1 for 13; \$5 per hundred. C. M. Hubbard, Box 114, New Brunswick, N. J.

Golden, Silver and Buff Wyandottes. My birds at the shows scored to 94 points. Lambert, judge. Eggs this season, \$1.25 per 13; \$3.00 per 40. Stock for sale; all farm raised. Breeder 15 years. F. S. TENNEY, Peterboro, N. H.

TREICHLER'S Poultry Farm. Offers S. C. W. Leghorn and White Wyandotte eggs from utility and beauty stock, at \$1.00 per 15; \$3 per 50; \$5 per 100. Fertility guaranteed. C. F. Treichler, Sanborn, N. Y.

AMERICAN TRAP NEST BOX.

Simple and practical. Plans \$1.00. By its use my S. C. White Leghorns produced 207 eggs per hen in 1898, and won this season 8 prizes at Madison Square, N. Y., and Danbury, Ct. Eggs, \$2 per 15. Circular free. **J. H. WOODHEAD,** Pleasant Poultry Yards, Box 226, Leicester, Mass.

Tobacco Dust

Beats the Bugs. Sure Thing.

Try it on your hens for lice, etc. Put some in the dust bath. The hens will apply it to themselves and make it touch the right spot. 2 lbs. 25c.; 5 lbs. 50c.; 15 lbs. \$1.00. WM. HAHMAN, Box 3, Altoona, Pa.

Poultry at the U. S. Stations.

The Chicken Mite—Analysis of Feeds—Animal Meal vs. Cut Bone—Narrow vs. Wide Ration—Influence of the Cock on Egg Production.

The Kansas State Agricultural College, Manhattan, Kansas, write A FEW HENS that they will not make any poultry experiments this year, but that the industry in that state is growing.

The Kansas Experiment Station, of Manhattan, furnishes A FEW HENS with the following hints on the chicken mite, which are of value:

This exceedingly troublesome and often fatal pest is the cause of many complaints from those raising chickens. The attacks of the pest are not confined to poultry, as it is often found in pigeon houses and in the nests of other birds about farm buildings. Where they are numerous, they often find their way to animals confined in the infested buildings. The mites are nocturnal in their habits. During the day time, they are generally in hiding about the building, but at night they abandon their hiding places and seek for food. Chickens are often prevented from sleeping at night, and not rarely forced to abandon their eggs when sitting. Instances have been recorded where birds have been killed by this mite. There is no way to receive permanent relief from the pest. The remedies must be applied often and thoroughly, since the insect is able to live a long time without eating. Cleanliness must be observed. The hen manure should be frequently removed, as it often swarms with the pest. If the hen house is light, fumigation by sulphur is very effective. To prevent any accident by fire, float the metal vessel containing the burning sulphur in a tub of water. After several hours of fumigation, air the building well before occupancy. Pure kerosene is also to be recommended. The interior of the building, including perches, should be well sprayed with it. After using kerosene, remember to air the building before introducing a light.

The eleventh annual report of the Hatch Experiment Station, Amherst, Mass., again takes up some of the experiments reported in our last issue. In an analysis of foods it gives the following per cent: Whole wheat, 10.51 moisture; 1.85 ash; 12.64 protein; 2.55 fibre; 71.01 extract; 1.44 fat. Whole oats, 8.06 moisture; 3.21 ash; 11.96 protein; 11.64 fibre; 61.48 extract; 3.65 fat. Cut clover rowen, 9.80 moisture; 7.36 ash; 17.88 protein; 22.18 fibre; 39.70 extract; 3.08 fat. Wheat middlings, 9.25 moisture; 4.63 ash; 17.52 protein; 9.91 fibre; 53.11 extract; 5.58 fat. Animal meal, 5.06 moisture; 39.26 ash; 37.66 protein; 1.01 fibre; 5.56 extract; 11.45 fat. Whole corn, 12.11 moisture; 1.31 ash; 9.55 protein; 1.90 fibre; 71.26 extract; 3.87 fat.

Bran, 12.72 moisture; 6.96 ash; 18.01 protein; 11.65 fibre; 57.92 extract; 5.46 fat.

Gluten feed, 9.10 moisture; 0.92 ash; 24.59 protein; 7.17 fibre; 63.43 extract; 3.89 fat.

Cornmeal, 13.43 moisture; 1.46 ash; 11.01 protein; 1.96 fibre; 81.44 extract; 4.13 fat.

Cabbage, 89.45 moisture; 7.94 ash; 25.69 protein; 9.31 fibre; 54.76 extract; 2.30 fat.

Cut bone, 26.29 moisture; 21.50 ash; 20.62 protein; 31.38 fat.

Gluten meal, 8.77 moisture; 1.50 ash; 37.64 protein; 3.87 fibre; 54.59 extract; 2.40 fat.

In the Animal Meal vs. Cut Bone experiment, the bone fed amounted to only .27 ounce per hen daily. One-half ounce and over is the usual recommendation by writers upon the subject. It was found impossible to feed so largely without serious bowel trouble. A test of the eggs both raw and boiled was made by an expert, who found the animal meal eggs inferior, in color and flavor, to the others. The general results are practically the same as stated in last month's report in A FEW HENS. In one respect only is the animal meal apparently inferior to the bone this year, viz., the fowls getting it weigh less at the close of the experiment than the others. This loss in weight is, however, far more than covered by the greater value of eggs produced.

The Station in its report concludes: "We have now carried through five experiments, comparing these two feeds. Two have given results slightly favorable to the bone in the number of eggs; one a similar result in favor of the animal meal; and two—the two last, which have been the most perfectly carried out—have been most decisively favorable to the animal meal. The latter has also been found the safer food. The greatly preponderating weight of the evidence afforded by these experiments, which have been most carefully conducted, is, therefore in favor of the animal meal."

In the Narrow vs. Wide Ration for egg production, it is stated that the object in view was to test the correctness of the generally held opinion that the food of the laying hen must be very rich in nitrogenous constituents. As the Station has carried out the experiment, it amounts to a substitution of cornmeal for wheat middling and gluten feed in the morning mash, and the replacement of about one-half of the oats and the wheat fed at night with the corn. The proportions of cut clover and of animal meal have remained the same in the two rations. The health of the fowls on both rations has been uniformly good throughout both the winter and summer test, with a single exception—the loss of one fowl from the effects of indigestion—on the wide ration. It was found to require the exercise of more judgment in feeding, to keep the fowls on the heavier corn ration in perfect condition. They were more easily overfed, and on two or three occasions lost appetite for their feed for short periods.

From December 12 to the last of April, the narrow ration flock layed 860 eggs; the wide ration, 1,071. There were 19 pullets in each flock.

The summer experiment was continued with the same fowls that had been used in the winter. The method of feeding remained the same, save in two particulars: (1) in place of cut clover rowen in the mash every morning, lawn clippings in such quantity as the fowls would eat before wilting were fed three times per week, to each lot the same; and (2) the feeding of cabbages was discontinued. The yards (50 x 24 feet) we kept fresh by frequent use of the cultivator. The health of one fowl only suffered during the experiment. One of the corn-fed fowls appeared dumpy for a few days, but was fully recovered in two weeks. As in the winter test, the fowls fed largely on corn showed less relish for their whole grain than the others.

Our Bone Cutter Book

treating of balanced rations for all fowls, young or old, will interest any poultryman. It also tells about the Webster & Hannum—the only bone cutter receiving an award at World's Fair, Chicago. Also Clover Cutters and Grit Crushers.

It is free, but may save you many dollars on your feed bill. Write for it.

E. C. STEARNS & CO., Box 6, Syracuse, N. Y.



PURE CLOVER
PIONEER
THE PERFECT
POULTRY
FOOD
CLOVER MEAL
THE BENNETT & MILLETT CO.
GOVERNOR, N. Y.

THE WINTER LAYER

will need a stimulant when the weather gets cold and everything is covered with snow. The very best stimulant known for egg production is

Pioneer Clover Meal

It is finely ground clover hay which has been carefully cured so as to preserve its natural green color and aroma. It is ground by our special made machinery and packed in new sacks. Prices, 50 lbs. \$1.00; 100 lbs. \$2.00; 5 lbs. 25c. Send for FREE sample book; endorsed by all leading poultry editors.

THE BENNETT & MILLETT COMPANY,
Box 11, Gouverneur, N. Y.

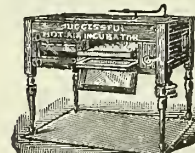
Heavy LAYING Strains

S. C. Brown Leghorns (average 187 eggs per hen). Pekin Ducks (average 143 eggs per duck).

This is Thoroughbred, Standard stock. Vigorous, and raised on unlimited range till maturity, and bred for eggs only. \$1.50 per sitting.

F. CHRISTMAN, Sellersville, (Bucks Co.) Pa.

A Great Mistake



DES MOINES INCUBATOR CO., Box 423, Des Moines, Ia.

it would be to purchase an Incubator or Brooder without first getting a copy of our 148-page catalogue. It costs 6c. but is worth a dollar to you for the poultry information it contains, to say nothing of the pointers it gives you. Send for it at once.

EGGS REASONABLE—From THOROUGHBREDS

90c. for 15, From Wh., Buff and Bd. P. Rocks
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5.00 for 100, Hamburgs, S. C. Brown, Buff and
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Houdans, Am. Dominiques and Pekin Ducks. Also
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Fertility guaranteed. See our catalog; it's free. Stock for sale at \$1.50 to \$5.00 each. Order remitting by Post Office Order, or write your wants.

BROOKSIDE PLTY. YARDS, Nelson, Pa.

From May to October 14, the narrow ration flock laid 859 eggs; the wide ration, 1,095.

Study of the results reveals the following facts:

1. The hens on the wide (rich in corn) ration laid a great many more eggs in both winter and summer experiments than those on the narrower ration.
2. The difference in favor of the wide ration amounts to 25 per cent in the winter trial and to 33 1-3 per cent in the summer trial, upon the basis of equal number of hen days.
3. The total cost of feeds was less for the wide ration, and of course the cost per egg was much less. In the production of 100 dozen eggs the saving on the basis of the winter test would amount to \$4.56; on the basis of the summer test, to \$3.24.
4. In average weight of the eggs produced there is a small difference in favor of the small ration; but in quality the weight of family evidence shows the eggs produced by the corn-fed hens to have been somewhat superior. They were deeper yellow and of a milder flavor than the eggs from the narrower ration.
5. The fowls on the wide ration gained somewhat in weight and were heavier at the close of the experiment than the others, notwithstanding the much larger number of eggs laid.

At the close of the experiment the fowls were closely judged as to the condition of the plumage while still living, and it was decided that the corn-fed hens were farther advanced in moulting than the others. The fowls were slaughtered, and the judgment of the men removing the feathers coincided with the judgment on the living fowls. The averages before and after dressing were as follows: Narrow ration fowls, 5.07 pounds; dressed weight, 4.37 pounds; wide-ratio fowls 5.44 pounds; dressed weight, 4.81 pounds. The narrow ration fowls gave 86 per cent dressed weight; the others, 88 per cent. The dressed fowls were judged by a market expert, who pronounced the corn-fed fowls slightly superior to the others.

The results are thus greatly in favor of the ration richer in cornmeal and corn; and so important will a knowledge of this fact prove (if confirmed by further trials), because of the cheapness of these foods as compared with wheat, that the experiment is being repeated this year with three different breeds of fowls, using corn yet more largely than last year.

In an experiment on the influence of the cock on egg production, the results show that the cock was without apparent influence. There was neither benefit nor injury shown due to the presence of the male. The average weight of the eggs from the hens with which a male was kept was slightly the greater, probably due to the fact that the eggs had been fertilized. The differences, however, was exceedingly small, and would be wholly without significance to the producer of eggs for market or for table use.

Sitting Hens and Little Chicks.

Hints that May Prove of Value to Beginners, and Which May Refreshen the Memory of the More Experienced — A Good Way to Feed Rice.

Beware of your neighbor's cat. The droopy chick needs examining. Keep the chick coop well disinfected. An irritable hen makes a poor mother. See that the houses are rat proof at night. The scratching hen gives her young exercise. Be gentle in handling the hen and her young. This was an ideal spring for young chicks. Cracked corn is undesirable for young chicks. Don't use harsh methods to break up the broody hens. The hot weather gives strength to the grand army of lice. At only a few days of age, chicks begin to eat whole wheat. Where is there more patience than that shown by the faithful sitting hen? A little finely cut green bone, twice a week, is excellent for young chicks. Unless you have a cool place, do not sit any more hens during this hot weather. Shade and plenty of fresh drinking water are essential to the thrift of the young. It is best to wear gloves in handling a fiery broody hen, or you may be badly wounded. Good fertility and strong chicks have been reported from all sections of the country this spring. The mother of one family will often kill the chicks of another, should they stray on the premises. A flock of common chicks are pretty as chicks, but they grow more homely as they assume their feathers. The most humane way to break up a broody hen is to pen her alone in a coop where there is no nest. Bread crumbs moistened with milk, alternated with rolled oats moistened with milk, makes a good ration for chicks up until 10 days of age.

Before you condemn the eggs that did not hatch, carefully examine them and your method of incubation. Incubators and hens are often at fault.

In lifting a hen off her young, always first raise up the wings to be sure that none are huddled under her. Then slowly lift her up. In this way none of the chicks will be hurt.

As soon as the chicks are hatched, it is best to take them away from the hen, and place them in a basket. Then let the hen dust herself well, and enjoy a good meal and drink before giving her the young.

Little chicks often get in the habit of picking each other's toes. Where this is done, anoint the wound with vaseline. It is not only healing, but the chicks getting a taste of it are not apt to make a second attack.

Lightly rub a sponge, slightly moistened with kerosene, on the breast feathers, and under the wings, of the mother hen. It will kill the lice on the heads of the chicks that nestle under her. Repeat the operation every week.

After the hen starts laying she gradually loses her love for her young. When it is noticed that she begins to pick them, it is best to take her away

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Pure White Wyandottes and Mammoth Pekin Duck eggs in large or small quantities, 5 cents each. White Holland Turkey eggs, 20 cents each. Breeding stock, \$1.50 each. Belgian Hares, \$1.00 each. Green cured fine Cut Clover, \$1.25 per 100 pounds. Prairie State Duck Special Incubator, \$35.00 (288 eggs). W. R. CURTISS & CO., Ransomville, N. Y.

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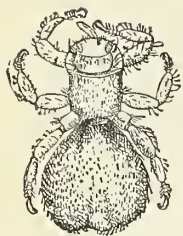
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and raise the chicks alone. At this time of year they will thrive just as well.

S. W. Anderson, a poultry lecturer in Scotland, in an address on the rearing and general management of chickens, said, on the subject of food, he would give a "wrinkle" worth its weight in gold. At three days old the chickens were qualified to eat pretty nearly anything, but he warned them against the practice of feeding the chickens on soaked bread. They should adopt the following plan: Fill a little linen bag half full of rice, put it into water and let it boil five minutes. They should then withdraw the bag and let the water drain away and they would find the rice whole and separated. A handful of oatmeal should be mixed with the rice and it would absorb all the moisture. This the chickens should be allowed to pick up for themselves, but they should not have too much.

Ducks and Ducklings.

121 Eggs in 121 Days—Remarkable Fertility—Hanging a Lantern or Lamp in the Duck Yard—Pointers that are Worth Remembering.

The duck is no louse machine.
Have the drinking troughs deep.
The duck seldom becomes broody.
Indian Runner ducks are in for a boom.
Never shut up ducks in a close building.
Ducks love to stay out all night in their runs.
The ducks need as clean quarters as fowls do.
Pekins are good breeders even at four years of age.
The largest ducks are not always the best breeders.
Bathing water is the best exercise the ducks can take.
Duck eggs for hatching should not be over a week old.
All honor to James Rankin for duck culture as a business.
Rankin says it costs from \$1.75 to \$2 to keep a duck a season.
Mix fine grit or sharp sand once a day in the food for old and young.
As warm weather advances, increase the number of ducks for each drake.
Ducks allowed outdoors at night should have drinking water within reach.
As the duck has no crop, it does not assimilate and thrive on whole grain.
Pekin ducks were first imported from China by J. E. Palmer, of Stonington, Conn., in the spring of 1873.
The Pekin duck will average as many eggs in six months of its laying season as the average hen will in a year.
Provide shade for both old and young, as exposure to sun will affect the appetite and the ducks will not thrive.
James Rankin states that experiments have proved to him that yarded ducks

give as good returns as those allowed free range.

Remember the back of the duckling is the most susceptible part, and until six weeks of age should not be allowed out in heavy rain storms.

After six weeks of age the ducklings will thrive better if allowed outdoors all night, provided dogs and vermin are not apt to attack them.

R. W. Davison says "a duck will eat almost anything from a shoe string to lath nails, but if good results are expected, good sound food, especially bulky food, should be given."

H. G. Eshelman, Bloomsburg, Pa., writes A FEW HENS that last spring he separated one of his ducks from the rest of the flock, and she laid 121 eggs in 121 successive days.

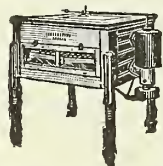
For flavor and delicacy of flesh, there is nothing in the line of domestic water fowl quite equal to the Cayuga duck, but it has never become popular in this country on account of its black plumage.

C. R. Burnham, manager Waite Poultry Farm, Kansas City, Mo., writes: "Noting in the March issue of A FEW HENS what the veteran duck raiser, Geo. H. Pollard, says regarding fertility of eggs—65 to 80 per cent being considered excellent, would say that although we had the severest winter here in many years, our Pekin duck eggs are averaging 95 per cent fertility, and on the second test (25th day) threw out less than 5 per cent.

"Of course to produce this high percentage it takes careful observation as to details, perfect hygienic conditions, and a properly balanced ration. We have an advantage here over many duck raisers in that celery trimmings can be procured in abundance which cost nothing but the hauling. A large commission house which is a distribution of California celery makes this their headquarters."

C. P. Reynolds, in *American Fancier*, says: "In a recent issue of A FEW HENS, M. K. Boyer says: 'Keep a lantern or a lamp burning in the duck yard at night; ducks will remain more quiet when not entirely in the dark.' I really hope that the worthy editor does not really mean that as good practical advice for a practical going farmer or duck raiser. If so, it means a method entirely different from anything that has come under my observation. Way out here in Michigan we never think of putting a lamp out in the duck house so the ducks can see their way clear to go to sleep. My experience with light about ducks and especially the Pekins is, that the farther you keep the light away from them after night-fall the better."

In reply we would say that we do not advocate a lamp or lantern in the duck house, but in the yard. It is a method adopted on many of the large duck farms, notably that of James Rankin, South Easton, Mass.



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Pointers on Food and Feeding.

Brief Reminders—Feeding Salt—Skim milk, Butter-milk and Curds for Poultry—English Method of Producing Bone and Frame—Value of Cowpeas—Benefit Derived from Bran—How Ground Meat is Prepared—Feeding Neglected on the Farm—Millet Seed Better than Corn.

Feed hulled oats.
Scatter the grain.
Water twice a day.
Beware of diseased meat.
Damaged grain is costly.
A hungry hen is restless.
The fowl craves green food.
Damaged grain is injurious.
Keep the water out of the sun.
Purity and cleanliness are imperative.
Cut down the quantity of heating food.
The bill of fare should not be complicated.
Cut down all fattening food in the bill of fare.
Too much green bone produces bowel troubles.
Bone and muscle food is the proper summer diet.
Dumping the grain in one place is that much loss.
Too much exposure to the sun cripples the appetite.
One of the greatest boons to egg farmers is the bone mill.
Mix a little charcoal, twice a week, in the morning mash.
A handful of grain is about what will fill the crop of the fowl.
Even in summer the fowls must be made to scratch for their grain.
The "mash at night" theory will never become the order of things.
An exclusive diet of one article of food will bring on bowel disorders.
Soft food left in the feed troughs sours very quickly this kind of weather.
Don't pay strict attention to the bill of fare in winter and neglect it in summer.
Too much "science" and not enough common sense is used in making up the bill of fare.
Fowls that have free range where grass and bugs abound, need only an evening meal of wheat.
"One man's meat is another man's poison" holds good in poultry diet as well as that for humans.
Potatoes, turnips, or other roots, cut up in a root cutter, and fed raw are greatly appreciated by the fowls, and make a good noon meal for them. Feed in troughs.

The *Fanciers' Gazette* says salt is necessary for the purpose of forming gastric juice, but if given in excess it produces inflammation of the mucous membrane; and while its use for fowls is beneficial if fed very sparingly, yet it may become baneful if injudiciously used.

G. O. Brown says farmers who have skim milk and feed it to the hogs are not getting one-quarter the returns they would if they heated it to boiling point and mixed the morning food for the laying hens and chicks with it. It is also excellent once a day, given in the drinking vessels.

Thos. F. Rigg, in *American Poultry Journal*, says that one reason why the

English produce birds of larger bone and frame than we do in this country, is because they feed, and have always so fed, a ration of oats, wheat and other grains which are rich in blood and bone producing properties, and that Indian corn enters but slightly into the food supply.

R. K. Jones, in *American Agriculturist*, says when hens begin to stop laying and everything else fails, boil cowpeas until nearly done, and feed these to the hens. The result will be surprising. Cowpeas are very cheap here (New Jersey), the majority of farmers now growing them in large quantities. They afford a low cost food which never fails to keep the hens laying throughout the severest of winters.

Poultry Keeper says one of the main advantages in feeding bran is that it contains more mineral matter than ordinary ground grain, and supplies that which may not be abundant in the ration. It is customary to add one pint of linseed meal to two quarts of bran, mixing this with four quarts of ground grain. Bran need not be fed more than once a day, and it is excellent when given with clover hay or cooked potatoes.

The ground meat used by poultrymen, and purchased in a fine condition, is first pressed with powerful machinery, in order to extract all the oil, and then ground, says *Poultry Keeper*. In order to derive all the oil the meat must be thoroughly heated, and steam is used for that purpose, the pressure being applied while the steam is passing through the meat, which thoroughly cooks it. The bones are allowed to remain with the meat as the marrow is also extracted, and that which the poultryman procures is really just what he desires—the nitrogenous matter.

Prof. F. E. Dawley says the food has much to do with the profit in poultry raising, and the great reason why fowls are not more profitable as usually kept on farms, is that too little attention is paid to this. You would not expect your dairy to pay if you fed the cows once a week and cleaned the stables once a year, nor would you expect it to pay if you fed all the corn they would eat, and no other food day in and day out, still this is just what many who think they take very good care of their hens are doing.

R. I. REDS. Prolific layers. Eggs, 26, \$1.50; \$4 pr. 100. St'k in season. E. S. Piper, Camden, Me.

P. H. Jacobs says if a gill of millet seed and a quart of corn could be compared in some manner, it would be found that more eggs would result from feeding the millet seed than from the corn; not that there is more nutrition in the seed, but because the hens would quickly pick up the corn, and would be compelled to work for each of the tiny seeds procured. One tablespoonful of millet seed scattered over a piece of ground or in loose litter will induce the hens to seek for food, and the exercise of so doing will promote their health, give them good appetites, and increase the egg production of every hen in the flock.

Butter-milk, skim milk or curds, given to poultry, will prove as profitable as when these substances are fed to pigs, says *Fanciers' Monthly*. When milk is skimmed the cream is removed only, and as cream is carbonaceous portion of the milk, and as it is of but little value so far as its being an assistant to egg production is concerned, the elements remaining in the butter-milk consist very nearly of the same as those existing in an egg. The cream does not carry off any nitrogen or phosphates in the milk, and it is just as valuable after the cream is removed as before. We do not recommend the mode of placing the butter-milk or skim milk in pans for them to drink, for though it answers well in that manner, yet the better plan is to mix it with soft food, and occasionally, if skim milk is used, it should be heated to boiling point and thickened with ground oats and cornmeal for a change.

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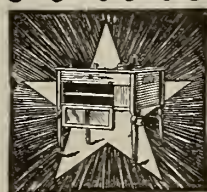
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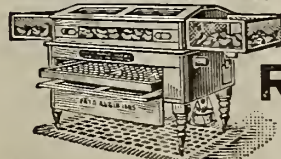
and in the production and brooding of chicks she has been supplanted by the better and every way

RELIABLE INCUBATORS and BROODERS.

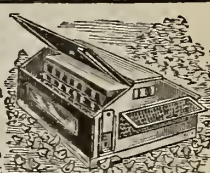
They Hatch and Brood when you are ready. They don't get lousy. They grow the strongest chicks and the most of them. It takes a 228-page book to tell about these machines and our Mammoth Reliable Poultry Farms. Plans for poultry houses, best way to handle, feed and market fowls, etc.

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A FEW HENS.

EDITED BY

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Hammonton, N. J.

Published Once a Month.

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Price, Monthly, Three Cents.

By the Year, Twenty-Five Cents.

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Entered at the Post-Office at Boston, Mass., as second-class matter, by I. S. Johnson & Co., Publishers, 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

EDITORIAL.

Our Many Readers Now benefit by the decrease in the amount of advertising. The less advertising the more reading matter. The egg season is over, and the poultry breeder is now turning his attention to the stock he will have for sale in the fall. Some of the breeders will run the incubators during June, July and August, in order to turn the surplus eggs into market chickens. Others will sell the eggs outright in market.

Quite a nice little trade is now starting up for the poultry breeder—which is destined to bring considerable money during the dull months of July and August. It is the demand for May and June hatched chicks at one and two months of age. These chicks are purchased by parties who grow them up for breeding stock. At 25 cents to 50 cents each, poultrymen should be able to have something to advertise the entire year, for it is this continual income that keeps the ball a-rolling. It pays to keep your name constantly before the reader.

Now that hatching season is practically over, pick out the birds you intend keeping over another year, and advertise the surplus stock. Ten chances to one there are buyers waiting for bargains. You can afford to sell a little cheaper now than you can if you keep them until fall—and the reader knows this. Now is your chance to catch that trade.

Surprised at His Trade. There is no disputing the fact that A FEW HENS makes business for those who advertise in it. Here is a "proof of the pudding":

"I have been thinking of writing you for some time, but business was so good that I could do nothing but attend to it. My good wife left all her work be—excepting just what had to be done—and did all the clerking. For one week I would not look at the mail—something I never did for 15 years.

"I was very sick on New Years Day, and again last week—overdone myself, but am out again.

"I was greatly surprised at the way A FEW HENS brought me trade. You can be assured I will stay with you the year round. I think I never dealt with a finer lot of men than your publishers.

"I sold in March, \$558.71 worth of eggs and stock; April, \$512.30. (This letter was written May 22d, so the May account could not be given.—Editor). Pretty fair business for an invalid, and I did it all right. I am storing up some strong testimonials that I am getting. I am going to sell some choice breeding stock, as I have out a fine lot of chicks. I will push stock sales this fall and winter."

—W. W. Kulp, Pottstown, Pa.

Did Her W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y., write:

"This has been a great year for sale of White Wyandotte eggs with us. Have never seen anything to equal it, and A FEW HENS did her share."

Trio of Compliments. Owing to rush of other matter, the usual amount of compliments which we print each month is cut down in this issue. We are very thankful for the many kind words spoken in our behalf, and hope to live to deserve them.

S. S. Carver, Montreal, Canada, writes that he considers A FEW HENS the newest paper he has yet seen on poultry subjects.

Wm. S. Stanley, Delton, Wis.: "A FEW HENS fills the bill for a poultry raiser. My wife says if we had not gone into the combination offer, A FEW HENS would have been all we need."

F. W. Bird & Son, the Neponset paper manufacturers, East Walpole, Mass.: "We think A FEW HENS an excellent publication."

Mr. Reynolds' Opinion. C. P. Reynolds, in his Michigan notes in the *American Fancier*, says: "That pithy little poultry paper, A FEW HENS, by Boyer, is still actively in evidence; it should be in the hands of every poultryman regularly. It represents an extreme in poultry culture that even the ultra fancier cannot afford to ignore."

Fertilization of Eggs. Dr. J. H. Casey, formerly editor of *Poultry Culture*, Kansas

City, Mo., writes: "Tell your readers that if they would be successful, first study A FEW HENS, and then carefully post themselves on the subject of fertilization of eggs. I am convinced that this subject is one which the average poultryman knows comparatively little about.

"As you say, 'Good stock always pays the best,' but the question is *how* to get that 'good stock.'

"A healthy bird will produce it, and when I say 'healthy' I don't mean a necessarily prize winner, but one of undoubted stamina. I care not if he lacks a point or two of the Standard, but his procreative power must be at par.

"We hear too much about 'chickens dying in the shell,' deformed chicks; you receive many complaints that 'Our eggs don't hatch well.' 'Is it the fault of the incubator?' 'Do I use too much

or too little moisture?' and a host of such questions.

"Now, if breeders and poultrymen would pay more attention to the *stamina* of their birds, they would not be obliged to bother you with so many questions. One of my neighbors raises fine specimens of scrubs. They are not pampered nor neglected, and often his eggs hatch 100 per cent. Why? Because his birds, treated by nature, are strong, vigorous birds; not 96 pointers, but when you consider them as profitable breeders they will score 100.

"I wish I had the ability and the time to expand on this subject, for I think it is one of the most vital importance. As a physician, I see so many diseases as the result of refined civilization, and so in chickendom I see very much of the many failures due to, so to speak, the same cause.

"While I do not deprecate the value of our Standard of Perfection, yet I feel that much of the perfection is on the wrong side.

"We enjoy and admire our stylish American ladies, but would it not be wiser to ignore some of that style for perfect health? So with our chickens. We raise (or should do so) them for profit, and their value, in my opinion, is determined by their egg-laying qualities and the almost positive fertility of said eggs. If attention is paid to the procreative power of our poultry we will have more success.

"I wish you, and the most sensible poultry paper published, success."

The Hen as a Manufacturer. H. W. Collingwood, in *Rural New-Yorker*, for May 13,

gives facts and figures about the hen that are interesting and instructive. He gives an illustration of a hen, a bag of feed containing one year's ration, and a bushel basket of eggs. The hen weighs about five pounds, but the bag contains 60 pounds of a grain mixture. The basket contains 140 eggs, the total weight being 20 pounds. In other words, this five pound hen consumes, on the average, one-sixth of a pound of grain per day, during the year. She turned that grain into 20 pounds of eggs, besides making a fair growth of flesh and feathers, and leaving fertilizer enough to produce one bushel or 60 pounds of potatoes.

"Here we are bragging about our great grain crop, and how we are feeding the world on bread and meat," adds Mr. Collingwood. "Last year, this country produced 530,149,168 bushels of wheat. Let us suppose that wheat was fed entirely to hens, and that the hens did as well as our hens have done. Do you realize how many eggs that would make? It would represent 74,229,883,520. The average export value of eggs in New York, last year, was a trifle over 16 cents per dozen. They are worth more than that with us; but take that average value. The eggs produced from the wheat, on this basis, would be worth the enormous sum of \$954,268,502.40. As sold for food, this wheat was worth \$428,547,121; in other words, our little friend the hen, would turn the wheat into a manufactured product, which would more than double its value. Last

year, we produced in this country, 1,902,967,933 bushels of corn. It is said that injurious insects destroyed over \$100,000,000 worth of crops last year. If these bugs could have been fed to hens, in connection with the corn and the wheat, with what grass would otherwise have gone to waste, our estimate is that the 2,433,117,101 bushels of corn and wheat would have produced \$4,379,610,781.80 worth of eggs. We want never to hear another word said against the possibilities of the little hen as a manufacturer, in the face of these figures."

Money on 3 Acres. About three years ago a young man asked advice about starting in the poultry business. He said he had several thousand dollars at command, and that he thought by judiciously investing it, he could make a living with poultry. We explained to him, as best we could, what was to be expected, how he would encounter stumbling blocks, and the many things that he might be interested in. That was the last we heard from him, until a few weeks ago when he paid us another visit.

That man was W. Howard Mellert, of Vineland, N. J. He gave up a lucrative position as a traveling man, and moved to Vineland to "make or break" himself in the poultry business. He is a man of pluck, and it is plain to see that what he undertakes he does well. His aim is to succeed, and he leaves nothing undone until he gains that end.

He explained to us that his farm contained but three acres, and on it he quarters a cow, horse, some pigs, and the poultry which consists of ducks and chickens. He has a brooder house, and in it in 1898 he raised for market 1500 broilers, which he sold at an average of 33 cents per pound. Besides he raised and marketed 1200 ducklings. He expects to market as many broilers this year, besides 5000 ducklings (at the time of his visit he had something like 2500 ducks out.)

Mr. Mellert is a student. By careful accounts that he has kept he finds that it costs him .23 cent for food for each duckling per day, or 16 cents for 10 weeks. He says that he believes that much of his success is due to the feeding of milk. He finds it invaluable for both broilers and ducklings.

Now here is the case of a young man who nearly all his life lived in a city. He at last reached that age that city attractions no longer held him spell-bound, but every day the desire to get out into the country and enjoy the fullness of life, grew upon him. He chose poultry farming as the means of existence, and having saved up a few thousand dollars he determined to combine it with his full knowledge of pluck, perseverance and business capacity. He is succeeding. He is built for the work, and we might add, that until he read and studied A FEW HENS he knew comparatively nothing about chicken culture, and he does not hesitate to proclaim that fact to all that call upon him.

It is the intention of the editor of A FEW HENS to pay Mr. Mellert a visit sometime this summer and write up a full history of the start, growth and results of this three acre farm.

Poultry Literature. The poultry literature of the present day is not only greatly improved, but it is more eagerly sought after by beginners and those already in the business. This fact is proved by the large circulations of the best poultry papers. The success of A FEW HENS—over 10,000 subscribers—shows that there is a demand for poultry literature. Another important item is the cheapness of the literature of the present day. Both books and papers are offered at ridiculously low prices for the amount of information they contain. A notable fact in this line is the reduction in price of that sterling poultry magazine, *Poultry Monthly*. The *Monthly* is one of the oldest and best edited publications in the country, and a neater or more attractive journal is not published. For years it sold at \$1.00 per annum, but the Ferris Publishing Company, determined to give "much for little," have cut the price one-half. This reduction, however, will not detract one bit from the general good quality of the magazine; in fact, if anything, it will be better. We want A FEW HENS readers to profit by this low price, and in order that they may get a still better bargain we will throw in a year's subscription to A FEW HENS to all who will send us 50 cents for the *Monthly* one year. Come forward now, and let's raise Brother Holmes a big club.

Trap Nests. The interest our readers are taking in our trap nest contest seems to be increasing. Nearly every mail brings us encouragement, suggestions, and general comments. They will all be of great help to us.

Maurice L. Newell, Denver, Colo., the inventor of the Reliable Nest Boxes, has forwarded us one of his Style C. We like it far better than the larger one he sent (Style A), in the main because the hens are not compelled to fly up to the nest. We put this Style C in our Brahma pen (which pen our readers will remember did not take kindly to the Style A, on account of being compelled to fly up to the nest) and it was hardly set before a Brahma hen walked in the enclosure, laid her egg, and seemed to cackle its praises. That was a good beginning.

Mr. Newell sells the plans for manufacturing his nests, and one of the main features he claims is that there is no necessity for having different sizes for the different breeds. With his nest one size will do for any breed from Brahmas to bantams. The cost of material for manufacture of the nest, runs from 10 to 15 cents.

Mr. Newell sends a sample of his method of keeping records which may be of value to our readers. He writes: "I enclose two sheets showing how I keep individual egg records, etc., which

I find handy and useful. The monthly sheet is my record for March. Some of the hens were broody, and some were sitting, as you will see in their column. This sheet I tack upon a small board and hang in the poultry house, together with a small pencil upon a string, and mark as eggs are collected, but do not mark the eggs—only those from hens whose eggs are intended for hatching purposes. The 'O' or 'odd column,' is where I find an egg under roost (over-feeding), or out in the yard. You will see I keep the total number laid in previous month (from start of year's account) in each of the total columns, so a glance at any time will give the number laid by each hen or all in a given time.

"The second sheet is the monthly records kept in a book, and gives the number laid by each hen in one month, also the odd lot received, total eggs, average price per dozen, and total amount in cash.

CHAMPION POULTRY YARDS, Buxton Centre, Me. Wh. P. Rocks and Wh. Wyandottes. Pure white, large size, prolific layers of brown eggs, each pen headed by unrelated males. Buff Leghorns, fine in comb and color. Eggs, \$1 per 13; \$2 per 30. Circular free. B. A. Bradbury, Buxton Centre, Me.

FERTILE EGGS 75 Per Cent. Guaranteed. **S. C. WHITE LEGHORNS** exclusively. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13; \$3.00 per 50; \$5.00 per 100. W. H. WARREN, Ransomville, N. Y.

BARRED PLYMOUTH ROCKS and **PEKIN DUCKS**, they are bred for good laying, and a fine market bird when dressed. Eggs for hatching from the same pens we breed from ourselves, \$1.50 pr. sitting; two sittings, \$2.50. W. M. WATMORE, Moorestown, P. O., Lenola, N. J.

THOROUGHbred
S. C. W. Leghorns, W. Wyandottes and Am. Dominiques. Bred for great laying. Eggs, \$1 per sitting; \$5 per 100. Stock for sale. F. J. BARNES, Turin, N. Y.

33 Ribbons Boston and New York.

Mr. Boyer recommends my stock and myself. My Rose C. Brown have a record of over 220 eggs to a hen in '98, '99. S. C. Browns and Rose, second to none in the world. White and Barred Rocks, Bradley & Thompson stock. Pekin Ducks, 10 lb. stock. Buff Leghorns, Wh. Leghorns, (Whiting). Wh. Wyans., (Dustin). Bl. Langshans and Minorcas. Stock all of best blood. Cocks, hens, cockerels and pullets for sale. A Buff Cochins cock, \$3.50. W. W. KULP, Pottstown, Pa.

WHEN YOU HAVE ANY

Poultry for Market

Write for prices to

PHILIP QUIGLEY,
Produce Commission Merchant,
No. 303 South Front Street, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

EGGS Barred Rocks, White Wyandottes, \$1.00 for 13. Pekin Ducks, \$1.00 for 12. W. H. Turkeys, Embden Geese, 25 cents each. WINFIELD DARLING, So. Setauket, L. I., N. Y.



EASY TO OPERATE.

Any boy or girl can be successful with **THE MONITOR INCUBATOR.** Automatic regulator. It makes strong and healthy chicks. We pay freight. 100-egg Old Hen Inc. and Brooder \$10. Catalogue Free. The Monitor Co. Box Moodus, Conn.



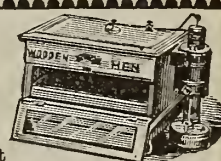
Hatch CHICKENS

WITH THE **EXCELSIOR INCUBATOR**

Simple, Perfect, Self-regulating. Thousands in successful operation. Guaranteed to hatch a larger percentage of fertile eggs at less cost than any other Hatcher. **CEO. H. STAHL,** Patentee and Sole Manufacturer, 114 to 122 S. Sixth St., QUINCY, ILL.

WITH THE **Wooden Hen**

Most efficient small incubator ever invented. Perfect in every detail. Just the thing for poultry raising on a small scale, 50 egg capacity. Catalogs Free.



1899.

March Egg Record.

Pen No. 1.

	1	3	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	15	16	0	Totals.
1	I		Br.	I			I	I	Br.	I			I	4
2	I			I		I	I	I		I				5
3	I							I						3
4				I	I	I	I	I		I				6
5	I			I		I	I	I				I		5
6				I	I	I	I	I		I				5
7				I	I	I	I			I	I		2	8
8	I						I	I					2	5
9				I	I			I	Sit.	I	I			5
10	I		I	I	I		I	I		I	I		I	8
11	I		I	I	I	I	I	I		I	I			9
12						I		I						2
13	I			I	I		I	I		I	I			7
14	I		I	I	I	I	I	I			I	I		9
15			I	I		I	I	I		I	I			7
16	I		I		I		I	I		I				6
17	I			I	I	I	I	I			I			7
18	I		I	I	I	I	I	I		I				7
19			I	I	I	I	I	I						5
20			I			I	I	I		I	I		I	7
21			I	I	I	I	I	I		I		I		7
22	I			I	I	I		I		I		I		7
23			I	I		I		I						4
24	I				Br.		Br.	I		I		I		4
25				I		I		I		I	I		I	6
26	I		I	I		I		I		I	I			8
27	I		I	I		I		I		I		I		7
28			I		Sit.	I	Sit.	I		I				4
29	I		I	I		I		I		I	I	I		8
30			I	I				I		I		I		5
31	I		I	I		I		I		I	I			7
1 Mo.	17		16	24	14	22	13	28		22	14	8	9	189
5 Mo.	48	11	24	24	2	67	7	38	69	59	19		19	454
	65	11	40	48	16	89	20	66	69	81	33	8	28	643

AVERAGE 15 3-4 EGGS PER HEN.

'98-'99.

EGG RECORD.

Hen Numbers	1	3	5	7	8	9	10	11	12	14	16	No. Odd.	Av. Hens.	Total Eggs.	Av. Each.	Pen Doz.	Total \$ c.
'98 Oct.	23	11	7	17	0	26	6					10	10	137	13 1-10	30	3.42
Nov.	14	0	0	0	0	21	0	21	18			0	12	99	8 1-4	30	2.47
Dec.	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	9	8	19		1	12	54	4 1-2	35	1.57
'99 Jan.	4	0	11	6	0	2	0	1	22	24		4	13	97	7 1-2	30	2.42
Feb.	7	0	6	1	2	1	1	7	21	16		4	11	57	6 1-11	30	1.67
Mar.	17	0	16	14	14	22	13	28	0	22	8	9	12	189	15 3-4	20	3.15
Apr.	23	0	0	5	0	24	0	2	0	26	19	1	11 1-2	109	9 1-2	20	1.82
	88	11	40	53	16	113	20	68	70	109	27						

NOTE:—No. 14 Black Leghorn, balance grade Barred Rocks, yearling hens up to and including No. 10, balance pullets.

From F. O. Wellcome, Yarmouth, Maine, comes a nest box that is not only unlike any others sent us, but is gotten up in about as neat a style as any we have yet seen. The door works on the side, and the hen opens it as she tries to go inside. It has just arrived, and so we cannot report on it yet.

W. M. Lloyd, Tuckahoe, N. Y., the inventor of the Uneeda nest box, which, by the way, to date has not made a mistake in the contest, writes:

"I want my nest to stand on its merits, and if there is anything deceptive about it, I want my advertisement withdrawn, for I want nobody's money without giving full value for it. Some seem to think they are the father of the system of trap nests. I have before me the advertisement of one who claims: 'Like many other successes, it has many imitators. Don't go to these would-be competitors.' Does he suppose that he has all the brains in the business, and only his invention can be perfect? I made a trap nest six years ago, and it, crude as it was, gave me the knowledge that half my birds were fed at a great

loss. I sent one to Brother Jacobs, of the *Poultry Keeper*, before the above gentleman was known to the poultry fraternity at all. His advertisement is not only a slander on me, but all who compete with him. If he has 'perfection' he will reap his reward, but if a better box can be made let him take a back seat, and find no fault with an honest editor for honest statements. I have never seen one of these nest boxes, but beg to say to the gentleman that his advertisement is incorrect so far as imitation is concerned. Tell the facts as they are, no matter who it hits."

A letter received from F. O. Wellcome, inventor of the nest trap referred to above, says:

"The originality of my invention consists of the front opening, and the attachment for closing and locking it. My No. 45 Barred Plymouth Rock pullet laid six eggs in five days, viz., April 22, one egg; 23, two eggs; 24, one egg; 25, one egg; 26, one egg. She laid them in one of my nests, and there was no room for error. The two eggs laid April 23 were exactly alike, laid in the same nest

—one in the forenoon and one in the afternoon, and I removed the pullet and the eggs myself.

"I have endeavored to construct a nest box that should be accurate, simple, economize time, space and money and be safe not only for the fowl entering, but for the one following close behind, whose head may be in the way when the door closes."

Dr. S. A. McWilliams, 3456 Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ills., sent us a model of a nest box that we believe will do good work. The hen walks up a sort of gang plank and the door closes. One great feature about the nest is that every part is movable, and thus can readily be kept free from lice. With the box he encloses a record sheet which is very complete, and shows careful work.

Following are extracts from Dr. McWilliams' letter:

"Good for you! Your experimental work is appreciated, and especially de-

MY WHITE WYANDOTTES are from the best laying strains. Eggs, \$1.00 per 13. WM. NICHOLLS, 42 Church Street, Lowell, Mass.

SCHUYLKILL Valley Poultry Farm. Eggs from S. S. and R. C. W. Leghorns, S. C. B. Leghorns, \$1.00 per 15. J. C. KURZ, Conshohocken, Pa.

Barred Ply. Rocks,

Bred for Eggs and Meat. Eggs per sitting, \$1.25. R. B. COMMERFORD, P. O. Box 432, Vineland, N. J.

BUFF LEGHORNS, BARRED AND WHITE PLYMOUTH ROCKS, WHITE WYANDOTTES, BLACK MINORCAS AND PEKIN DUCKS; strong, vigorous, prolific laying, farm-raised stock. Eggs, \$1.00 per 15; \$3.00 per 50. Circular free. GEO. A. HURLBERT, Cuyler, N. Y.

STOCK and EGGS.

White and Buff Wyandotte, White Plymouth Rock and Black Langshans, Rouen and Pekin Ducks. Stock for sale. Eggs \$1.00 per setting. A. P. BENSON, Dedham, Mass.

EGGS, MEAT, POINTS.

I aim to produce birds that combine these three. My birds are heavy winter layers, and make me a handsome profit on eggs. They are unexcelled for broilers or roasters. The beginner about to select the breed he would adopt should investigate the merits of my

BUFF PLYMOUTH ROCKS

My pens contain twenty birds with an average score of 92 9-20, by judge McClave. All headed by choice males, mated to produce winners.

EGGS—13, \$3.00; 26, \$5.00. FRED. E. PILE, - - - Cleveland, Ohio.

FOUND

the place to buy the best at reasonable prices, from Hunter's strain Barred Plymouth Rocks. Bred for utility and egg production. Eggs \$1.00 per 15. Chas. Peterson, 85 Smith St., Perth Amboy, N. J.

WHY DON'T YOU BUY

An Indian Game Cockerel or some Eggs, and raise some chickens worth eating?

Carpenter's Cornish Indians

Are Prize Winners wherever shown. Also breed Fine Black Minorcas. B. Plymouth Rocks bred for utility, and Muscovy Ducks. Stock and eggs for sale.

H. M. CARPENTER, Sing Sing, N. Y.

Barred Ply. Rocks.

Thoroughbred stock of well-known brown egg strains. Breeders carefully selected each year for various desirable qualities. Have bred Barred Rocks exclusively for four years. No stock for sale. Eggs, \$1.50 per 13; \$6.00 per 100. Satisfaction guaranteed. P. B. METCALF, No. 30 Laurence Ave., Roxbury, Mass.

CHILD'S WYANDOTTES

SILVER AND WHITE. WM. H. CHILD, - - - HATBORO, PA.

lighted am I with your criticisms of trap nests as given in A FEW HENS. The fancy will also be pleased. For your criticism I also send you a model of my trap nest. No strings in my nest for hens to get tangled in. Holes in sides for air. Through the top of the door the hen will peck to get out, and this is easily seen.

"Strings in a box are a nuisance and useless, because the hen pecks at them till she gets all tangled up in them, or disarranges them. My hens don't object to going in and coming out at front, hence a back door is useless and unnecessary. Side doors to pick out eggs are unnecessary and useless. An adult's arm can always reach the egg if the box is not made over 26 inches long.

"My hens grow so tame that they seem to like to be handled. Of course, we handle them very gently. I find 16 boxes are all that are needed for 50 hens. I remove the hens every two hours or thereabouts—at 10 and 12, and 2 and 4.30 o'clock."

Yarded vs. Free Range. There is no disputing the fact, that the most profitable method in keeping poultry is in comfortable houses and generous sized runs. Eggs, as a rule are better flavored, and there are more of them, and chickens are more tender for eating, when raised on a regular poultry ranch where free range is out of the question, than when raised on the farm where the hens are all of one "set," and are allowed to go where they please, roost on trees, and be exposed to all sorts of weather. By this system more eggs are secured, and the keeper is better able to keep watch over the condition of his flock.

Judge G. O. Brown, in a well written article in Baltimore *Sun* gives a very reasonable argument on this score, as follows:

Whether a flock of poultry does best on an unlimited range or in yards of good size is an open question, if one is to judge from the various experiences given. Those confined to yards, when managed by an intelligent keeper, are fed for a purpose in a systematic manner. They are allowed food that is known will produce certain results; are afforded means for securing a proper amount of exercise, and proper sanitary precautions are always a feature. The flock is continually under close observation; there is comparatively little loss by wild or domestic animals, and "missing" specimens are rare.

Where there is unlimited range, close observation is out of the question, and there is considerable loss by dogs, hawks, minks, foxes, and other animals. There are always some "seclusive" hens that will make nests in undesirable and unfindable places, and other losses are sure to occur.

There are some poultry raisers who have tried both plans who do not hesitate to pronounce the yard plan the most profitable. That there are farms where the unlimited range plan could be followed with marked success is beyond dispute. Take the average farm, however, with its tangled overgrown fence rows, ravines and rampant growth of weeds in odd places, sloppy barnyards,

pigpens, etc., and a good sized flock of hens—that is, one large enough to be considered a source of revenue—will not prove as profitable as if properly yarded. The accidents and mishaps of poultry on the farm, if a strict account should be kept, would be startling. Controlling the food and drink of a flock is essential to secure the best results. On the farm, range poultry often get very undesirable food. They seem always to prefer the impure water in the barnyard, to clean, fresh water. The flavor of the eggs of a flock of farm hens running at will at all seasons of the year, in comparison with the eggs laid by hens kept by poultrymen in yards, is rank indeed.

Eggs from farms, though "strictly fresh," are often of very strong flavor. Without doubt, in the near future there will be a demand for what might very properly be termed "pure food eggs." These will be from hens whose food supply is entirely controlled by the keeper, who will furnish them with the sweetest and most wholesome foods, provide them with pure water, and keep all surroundings in good sanitary condition. Physicians are aware of the radical difference in the quality of eggs, and are doing much to educate the public in this respect. Cleanliness, wholesome food and good strong healthy fowls will make a great team on the road to success.

EGGS \$1.00 per 15. White Wyandottes, great layers of large brown eggs. S. C. W. Leghorns prolific laying strain. All Standard bred. Nothing better. Satisfaction guaranteed. C. E. MISNER, Calla, Ohio.

I breed for business and get business birds. S. C. W. LEGHORNS, strong, hardy birds and great layers. Pullets, '98 hatch, laid when four months old. W. WYANDOTTES, equal to the best, eggs, \$1.50 per 15. SUSQUEHANNA POULTRY FARM, A. J. LATTIN, Proprietor, Milford, N. Y.

EGGS. BLACK LANGSHANS. Will sell a few settings from two grand pens. Large, vigorous, healthy females mated to Standard-weight males, \$2.00 per setting; three settings, \$5.00. H. COTTERILL, Westfield, N. J.

White Wyandottes, Buff Plymouth Rocks

Pedigreed strains. Prolific layers of large brown eggs. Stock unsurpassed for vigor, shape and color. Utility and beauty combined. Eggs, \$1.00 per 15. CHARLES H. CANNEY, Dover, N. H.

BUFF P. ROCKS. Nuggets only. They are no strangers. Won Pa. State Medal at recent show; winning gold special Red and Blue Ribbons for six years. Eggs, 13, \$1.50; 30, \$2.50; \$4.00 for 50. KERLIN & SON, Box 4, Shenkel, Pa.

A Record
to be of value must be backed by continued worthy deeds. The **Prairie State Incubators and Brooders** have increased their first premiums to 200 in competition with the best. Send for 1898 catalogue, giving full description. Handsome, colored plates. **We warrant every machine.** *Prairie State Incubator Co. Homer City, Pa.*

"Best Liver Pill Made." Parsons' Pills

Positively cure biliousness and sick headache, liver and bowel complaints. They expel all impurities from the blood. Delicate women find relief from using them. Price 25 cts.; five \$1.00. Pamphlet free. L. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston.

Diseases—Remedy and Prevention.

Causes of Diarrhoea—The Diseases of Poultry—Prevention is Better Than Cure—Crop Impaction—Roup Remedies—Defence for Douglas Mixture.

Healthy fowls are profitable.

Disease is the fowl's worst enemy.

Dampness and disease are boon companions.

Texas Farm and Ranch recommends dry snuff for lice on fowls.

Hens kept from all green food, whether it be clover, corn fodder, hay or grass, will in time become dyspeptic.

The ailments of poultry are in many cases identical with those of the human body, and require about the same treatment. Inflammation is a common cause.

The evils of a long-continued single diet are as bad as overfeeding. Both induce indigestion, which soon debilitates the flock to a disease-inviting condition.

Diarrhoea is caused by indigestible food, a chill, coarse or half-cooked food, too much bran, lack of grit, exposure to heavy rains, irregular and improper feeding, filthy water and overfat.

The diseases of poultry are many, but probably not over a half dozen are of sufficient importance to demand treatment. The symptoms which are, more or less, the forerunners of those diseases, should be met and treated promptly. If we apply a remedy for the symptoms we need not battle with the disease.

Remember that all troubles in the poultry yard are not the result of accidents. They come from cause, and prevention of the cause is the best remedy, says G. O. Brown. If one-half the time usually spent in doctoring ailments of poultry were devoted to preventive measures there would be little trouble.

Dr. N. W. Sanborn, in *American Poultry Journal*, says giving generous feeds of cracked corn at night sometimes impacts the crop. The bird eats all she can, goes to the drinking vessel several times, and then to the roost. The moisture swells the corn, the crop is enlarged to the greatest extent and impaction sometimes follows.

W. D. Lowell, Harborscreek, Pa., writes A FEW HENS: "One of my flock caught cold recently, and from the sneezing, wheezing and hoarseness I decided that, in spite of my precautions, roup was in company with me. I started to experiment, but found nothing would give such instant relief and sure cure as Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. It is wonderful the way it works."

An ailing hen is easily detected by the practiced eye of a poultry keeper. A little attention promptly given is what is needed. A coop where she can be placed so as not to be annoyed, and half of a two grain quinine pill or a teaspoonful of soda water may soon bring her around, says the Baltimore *Sun*. It is always best, however, to examine thoroughly for vermin first. Close observation is one of the essentials of success in poultry raising.

A reader of A FEW HENS has this defence to make for Douglas Mixture:

"Never saw crass ignorance and assumption so displayed as in hen literature. You quote from *Texas Farm and Ranch* in deprecation of Douglas Mixture. That intelligent journal says it is sulphuric acid, copper and water. It jumps to the conclusion that copperas is sulphate of *copper*. This latter is known as *blue vitrol*. Copperas is sulphate of *iron*, sometimes called green vitrol. The Douglas Mixture, used as directed, is almost a homeopathic dilution, and is probably innocuous."

W. Howard Mellert, Vineland, N. J., says the best roup cure is made as follows: Prepare a mixture of one tablespoonful of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment, one teaspoonful of spirits of turpentine, and four tablespoonful of water. Put the mixture in a sewing machine oil can. When using, warm the mixture slightly, and shake well before using. Three times a day inject 2 to 4 drops in each nostril, and force 20 drops or more down the throat. A few days of this treatment ought to effect a cure.

Questions Briefly Answered.

Condensed Replies to the Many Inquiries Received at this Office.

BREEDS.

- F. V. A.: Orpingtons are bred by C. E. Voss, Washington, N. J.; also by Wm. McNeil, 778 Waterloo street, London, Ont., Canada.
- R. D. E.: Standard weight for White Wyandottes is, cock, 8 1-2 lbs.; hen, 6 1-2 lbs. Barred, White and Buff Plymouth Rocks are one lb. heavier.
- E. T. O.: Do not condemn the breed for the color of the down of the chick as that all changes after the chick assumes its feathers.
- B. A. B.: You are apt to get occasional single comb and feathered leg specimens in Wyandottes from the best strains in the country.
- C. H. H.: Standard-bred poultry are thoroughbreds, but thoroughbreds are not always Standard-bred. There is a difference in the two, and for practical purposes the fowls must not be bred too close to the Standard requirements, as to do that it is necessary to inbreed closely.
- I. K. F.: The Black Minorca is not only an excellent layer, but the eggs are of a large size and very uniform in shape. Rose Comb Minorcas can be purchased from George H. Northup, Raceville, N. Y.

FOOD AND FEEDING.

- F. A. S.: Cut grass can be fed either separately or mixed in mash. It should be cut in half-inch lengths.
- C. E. B.: Burnt wheat is damaged wheat, and unfit for food.
- B. S. D.: Whole oats can be fed after the chickens are six months old, but the oats should be either clipped or hulled.
- Y. B. A.: Whole oats with the hulls on are apt to pack the crop. It is best to feed them hulled or clipped.
- J. C. G.: C. H. Latham sends us this method for curing lawn clippings: After running the clippings through a

cutter, spread them over the floor of a loft where it is hot, so as to kiln dry them. He uses the loft of his grain room which is under a low, nearly flat roof, and is very hot when the sun shines on the roof. Lawn clippings when dried in this way retain their natural color and all the sweet aroma of new mown hay. They should be spread thinly on the floor and turned over once or twice a day, and when dry can be packed in a sack or barrel for winter use. Sun dried clippings nearly always bleach in color and lack the sweet aroma that the kiln dried clippings have.

S. C. C.: We feed a morning mash the year round, and also make the hens exercise by scratching in litter for their grain in summer as well as in winter.

EGGS.

- L. B. K.: You must handle the fowls no matter what trap nest you use. There is no other practical way of telling the number on the leg band of the layer.
- A. L. M.: Pullets laying constantly during winter, will in the latter part of spring lay small sized and (in brown-egg layers) lighter colored eggs.
- A. L. M.: The ill-shaped eggs are due to a more or less amount of fat around the ovaries.
- C. W. F.: Never heard of the vinegar bath given eggs furnished the White House.
- W. H. W.: The White Wyandottes as a breed do not lay brown eggs, but the poultry men are gradually breeding to that end, and some strains are very successful so far.
- T. B. A.: Without a doubt the brown color in the eggs of our American breeds is due to the introduction of Asiatic blood.

YEARLING W. Wy. and Bar. P. R., Norton str.; prices right. Eggs; 15, \$1; 30, \$1.75; 60, \$3. P. duck eggs same prices, Rankin strain. Golden Rule Poultry Farm, C. A. Dunlap, Falmouth, Maine.

THE IMPROVED VICTOR INCUBATOR



Hatches Chickens by Steam Absolutely self-regulating. The simplest, most reliable, and cheapest first-class Hatcher in the market. Circulars free.

Catalogue 40cents. **GEO. ERTTEL CO., Quincy, Ill.**

OTTER Creek Poultry Farm, Vergennes, Vt. Light Brahmas, B. P. Rocks and White Wyandottes. After June 15th, 1899, breeding hens \$1.00 each. Brown eggs 50 cents per sitting.

DOLLAR EGGS



After June 1st, eggs from all yards **One Dollar per 15** from our best prize stock and packed with same care that early orders received at full price.

OUR BREEDS: Barred, White and Buff Pl. Rocks, L. A. Brahmas, Langshans, Buff Cochins, White Wyandottes, Buff and Brown Leghorns, Pekin Ducks. Fifteen years a successful breeder.

POULTRY SUPPLIES! Biggest, best and cheapest stock in the United States. Nissly's Poultry Annual and catalogue of "Everything for the Poultry Yard" is a 100-page book, illustrated and full of information, valuable chapters on feed and care of poultry, treatment of diseases, etc., and tells all about "Michigan Poultry Farm" stock, etc. Don't miss it. Sent for 4c. in stamps. Address, **GEO. J. NISSLY, 17 Adrian St., Saline, Mich.**

E. J. B.: The English and French breeds lay white eggs.

A. F. H.: Cold storage eggs are more safe to eat than those preserved, but either practice is apt to be an imposition upon the consumer, and certainly detrimental to the interests of the poultry farmer.

W. R. C.: The infertile egg taken from the incubator after being exposed to the heat for a week, is not spoiled for eating or cooking. It is equivalent in flavor to an egg kept in the house for two weeks. The heat does no more than to age it.

BROILERS AND CHICKS.

G. A. C.: New York city is the best broiler market.

H. S.: Where the wings grow too fast for strength of the body, clipping them is a great relief. Add a little bone meal to the soft food.

T. B. A.: Stale bread crumbs moistened with milk, alternated with rolled oats moistened with milk, makes an excellent diet for young chicks for the first 10 days.

P. Q.: The Leghorn makes an attractive broiler, but as it requires about 16 weeks to get it to the proper weight it is not used by broiler raisers.

H. N.: Broilers must be dry picked.

F. J. B.: Broilers should be fed bone and muscle food until they are ready for the fattening pen, or they may be stunted.

J. H. B.: Indian Game crossed on Wyandotte makes a grand broiler.

T. B. A.: We believe in giving chicks water to drink from the start.

M. B.: If the food is mixed with hot milk it will not only be relished by the chicks, but it is one of the very best foods for them.

R. W.: Bowker's Animal Meat is the best preparation for young chicks that we have yet tried.

W. H. W.: There is but one correct way to feed chicks, and that is a little at a

PEKIN Ducks that are right. Eggs—12, \$1.50; 100—\$8.00; guaranteed fresh and fertile. W. H. Fordham, Seawanhaka Poultry Farm, Speonk, L. I., N. Y.

Berwick Farm—Buff Leghorns, Buff Wyand. Wh. Wyand., Ind. Games. Our strain have won prizes in England and America's greatest shows; prolific layers; egg order book now open. Norwich, N. Y.

INCUBATOR EGGS from pure-bred White Wyandottes. \$3.00 per 100. **SILAS DEAN, Oak Hill, N. Y.**

Wh. Wyand., W. P. Rocks and R. I. Reds. Brown eggs from prolific winter layers at \$1.00 per 15. White Wyandotte eggs, \$4.00 per 100. C. A. SANBORN, 42 Fairmont St., Malden, Mass.

THE ONLY ONE

Pike's Lice Destroyer is the only lice killer that is sold on a guarantee to kill lice and mites or money refunded. It is no trouble to use it as the liquid is sprinkled on the roosts and kills the vermin while the poultry sleeps.

Pike's Lice Destroyer, per gallon can.....\$.75
Crushed Oyster Shells, per 100 lb. bag..... .75
Mica Crystal Grit, per 100 lb. bag..... .75
Ground Bone, per 100 lb. bag..... 2.00

Much lower prices for larger quantities. Agents wanted. Send for descriptive circulars.

Ship us **POULTRY AND EGGS**
Your **SPRAGUE COMMISSION CO.,**
218 South Water St., Chicago.

time and often. We believe in giving them something to eat every two or three hours.

DUCKS.

- B. S. D.: Ducks can be profitably bred for four years. Young ducks often begin laying in fall or early winter.
- B. S. D.: We never soaked the beef scraps fed to the ducklings.
- J. G.: Exposure to the hot sun is as fatal to young ducks as a heavy rain storm would be.
- E. S. G.: Our experience with the Aylesbury ducks is that they are no better layers than the Pekins.
- S. A. M.: We doubt if there are any larger or better Pekins than those bred by A. J. Hallock, Speonk, L. I.
- A. J. S.: As the duck has no crop it receives practically no benefit from a whole grain ration.
- M. C. W.: Those who are breeding them state that the Indian Runners are the greatest layers of the duck family.
- S. C. P.: The drinking vessels of the breeding ducks should be deep, or sore eyes is apt to be the result.
- A. I. B.: You are right, your friend is wrong; it is the duck that has the harsh voice, and not the drake.
- T. F. R.: The ducks should be marketed at 10 weeks of age.
- G. P. B.: Fish fed the market ducks is apt to taint the flesh.
- N. B. V.: During laying season you are not apt to overfatten the ducks.
- B. R. E.: James Rankin has made a number of experiments in crossing the different breeds of ducks, but says no one of the crosses was equal to the pure Pekin.

DISEASES.

- W. H. M.: Your fowls, we believe are suffering from what is known as itch animalcula, for which the following ointment is recommended: Flour of sulphur, 2 parts; carbonate of potassa, 1 part; vaseline, 8 parts. Mix thoroughly and apply with the finger to the bare place a few times.
- F. B. A.: When during cool weather a hen walks about with its mouth open as if panting for breath, it is an indication of an irritation of the throat. About the best relief that can be given it is to add about four drops of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment to a teaspoonful of glycerine.
- T. B. A.: Rusty iron in the drinking water is an excellent tonic.
- P. H. J.: The hen found dead on the roost died from what we believe to be apoplexy. This is caused by overfat.
- N. F. M.: The best work on poultry diseases is Dr. Sanborn's Farm-Poultry Doctor, which can be had at this office for 50 cents.
- T. E. R.: Poultry fed sulphur must not be allowed to be caught in a rain storm, as they are apt to catch cold of a serious nature.
- G. M. T.: A good treatment for swelled head is to make an ointment of one tablespoonful of melted vaseline, and one teaspoonful of Johnson's Anodyne Liniment. Keep the two well mixed when cool, by stirring. First wash the head and nostrils with castile soap and warm water, and after dry rub

the face with a few drops of the above ointment. Do this daily. Also give a one grain quinine pill twice a day.

SITTING HENS.

- T. B. A.: When a hen leaves her nest after sitting a week, lice generally is the cause. Sometimes the broody fever leaves the hen after sitting a few days, and she quits.
- T. B. A.: During warm weather it will not hurt the eggs if the hen remains off them from a half to one hour.
- B. H. J.: It is akin to cruelty to set a hen twice in succession especially during hot weather.
- Mrs. D. E. R.: We believe the heat killed your hen. A hen should never be set in a close and poorly ventilated place.
- D. E. H.: We sprinkle carbolate of lime in the nests of the sitting hens, and find it keeps down the vermin besides disinfecting the nest.
- K. J. Y.: Leghorns when they get real broody become excellent sitting hens. We have at this writing two hens (Leghorns) that are sticking to the nest as faithfully as any Wyandotte could do.
- E. W. B.: The Brahma is an excellent incubator, but owing to its clumsiness is very apt to step upon the eggs and the young in the nest.
- H. T. M.: Where whole corn and sharp grit is constantly before the sitting hen, there is not much danger of diarrhoea, at least not enough to do any harm.

White P. Rocks. Jersey Beauties. Eggs per 13 (Hawkins), \$2.00; (Empire), \$1.00. REV. W. T. DORWOOD, Stelton, N. J. (Member A. W. P. R. Club).

\$1.00 PER SITTING

for **White Wyandotte Eggs** after June 1st. Hens averaged 180 eggs each the past year, clearing a profit of \$14.00 per head.

C. K. NELSON, Hammonton, N. J.

Heavy Laying

Single Comb Brown, White and Buff Leghorns, Black and White Minorcas; Barred, White and Buff Plymouth Rocks; S. S. Hamburgs; White and Golden Wyandottes; W. F. B. Spanish; Rose Comb Buff Leghorns; Pearl and White Guineas; P. Ducks. Eggs, \$1 per 15; \$3 per 60; \$5 per 100. Bronze Turkeys, headed by 50 pound Tom; eggs, 25 cents each. Look up my show record.

JAMES M. SMITH,

PERKIOMENVILLE (Montg., County), Pa.

P. S. Incubator eggs from good stock B. P. Rocks and S. C. Br. and Wh. Leghorns, \$3.00 per 100; \$5.00 per 200. Send P. O. Money Order or Reg. Letter.

YES,

MY B. P. ROCKS won 10 prizes on 13 entries; 90 birds in class. Eggs from these winners, \$2.00 per 13; \$5.00 per 39. Write wants to E. B. BURNES, Milford, N. H.

THE IMPROVED

EMPIRE STATE BROODERS FOR 1899

Have many points far in advance of other makes; one very important item is the saving of 1-3 to 1-2 in oil. Stop this useless waste, as it means dollars to you. Brooder Lamps 60 cts. each; \$3.00 1-2 doz. Tested Thermometers 30 cts. each, by mail. Send stamps for circulars; it will pay you. Prices reasonable.

FOR SALE:—One Cream Separator, cheap. Capacity 375 pounds. Address, Empire State Brooder Co., Hall's Corners, N. Y.

Poultry Printing

I make a specialty of poultry printing, having cuts of all kinds of poultry. Anything you want in that line you will save money by asking for prices. UNION PRINTING CO., Anthony, R. I.

J. G. D.: It is a mistake to feed soft food to the sitting hen. Whole grain is the best, as it digests slowly.

P. T. B.: We have had sitting hens that not only ate their eggs, but also devoured the chicks as hatched. Such hens should be marked and not used again.

MISCELLANEOUS.

- W. M. L.: Certainly incubator hatched chicks can be pedigreed. The mother of the chick—the hen that laid the egg—does not always hatch her own eggs.
- R. D. E.: Mark chicks with web punch; after they are nearly matured a leg band should be used.
- N. A. T.: *Der Gefluegel Zuechter* is a German poultry paper, published by Henry E. Voight, Hamburg, Wis.
- H. D. P.: We dispose of the hen droppings to farmers. Do not know of any city party who buys them.
- S. F. R.: The Peach tree is quick growing, and makes excellent shade for poultry.
- Mrs. D. F.: The Prairie State incubator is a hot air machine.
- K. L. O.: A grit machine can be purchased from W. V. Russ, 28 Vesey street, New York city.
- E. S. G.: We have never operated a Cyphers incubator, but have had some excellent reports from those who have used it.

Notes in Passing.

News in the Market Poultry World—Hints that May be of Value—Paragraphs from Our Exchanges.

For 60 cents we will send A FEW HENS one year, and include a year's subscription to that excellent magazine, the *Ohio Poultry Journal*. The *Journal* is one of the handsomest and best edited poultry publications in the country. It is published by J. C. Ely, Dayton, Ohio, and a sample copy will be sent for 5 cents.

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* says that what is needed for improvement of poultry on the farm is that the farmer should regard poultry as an important branch of live stock and give it the same attention he gives his cattle and sheep. When a farmer undertakes to improve poultry he is advised to start with a small flock of purebred fowls and breed from them. The unprecedented interest shown in poultry at the present time is not the result of particular effort by either the press or the breeders, says *American Poultry Journal*. It is neither a boom by a faction, nor a fad by a few fanciers. It is, on the contrary, a legitimate growth of a profit-bearing industry. The basis is sound, firm and enduring. The manifestation is grounded on substantial reasons.

Says Bro. Collier, in his *Pacific Poultryman*: A man who gets the idea into his head that if 10 chickens will pay \$50, 100 chickens will pay \$500, will soon join the ranks of those who claim that there is nothing in poultry. If hens are colonized in small flocks they will pay, but running 100 together there is no way of picking out the

drones, and some mighty good hens pay the board of some mighty poor ones.

The *Indiana Farmer* says there are men who become infatuated with the poultry business and imagine that because they have the proper pocket book backing to start in on a large scale they will be successful. Experience is a wise, but often a costly teacher, but in poultry keeping, experience properly followed will lead the follower on to success, and it is the only way by which you can reach that goal. Remember this—little things make the success or failure on the poultry farm.

The *American Cultivator* thus wisely states a fact: Breeding in and in, even with purely bred fowls, ought not to be carried too far. If there is any weakness or other bad trait on either side, the practice of breeding in and in will be sure to perpetuate it and make it worse. But with the majority of farmers, poultry yards, filled as they are with mongrels, the result of inbreeding is most disastrous. In most cases the chicks will inherit the defects of all their progenitors.

The *American Agriculturist* says the composition of poultry manure depends largely upon the character of the food. From chickens fed ground bone and a mixture of grain, the manure will be much more valuable than that from those fed corn exclusively. Poultry manure ferments quickly and will lose much of its nitrogen unless this is preserved by means of absorbents. Lime or wood ashes should not be used for this purpose, but dry loam or muck, moss litter from peat bogs, road dust and the like are all useful for scattering over the floor of the poultry house.

A little attention to fowls will enable the owner to discern the characteristics of his fowls; he will know the gourmand and the timid fowl, the quarrelsome and aggressive and pugilistic fowl; the latter class should not be allowed to remain with the former. Many a fowl has been kept upon its perch all day, half starved, through fear of some fowl whose chief aim in life seemed to be to lord it over the timid ones of the flock. "Death to all tyrants" is our motto in all such cases, writes Mrs. A. C. McPherson, in *Farm and Home*.

The Burlington, N. J., *Reporter* says: Farmers as a class are a careless lot, but if there is one thing that is neglected more than another on the farm, it is that active, industrious producer, the busy hen. The horse must be well bedded, blanketed, groomed and grained, care and attention must be given the cow, the hogs have a good bed given them and are gorged with grain, but the hen is allowed to roost in the trees or in open sheds, and poultry raising is considered a minor adjunct of the year's production on the farm, and is generally relegated to the care of the housewife.

Editor Cloud gives a pointer: "The very next fowl you have drowned in a swill barrel, take it out and down to the horse stable, lay it on the manure pile, and with a fork put on a light

covering of the horse manure, and watch results. In less than an hour the pile will move and directly your fowl will emerge and go to picking around, none the worse for its experience and narrow escape. The heat arising from the manure warms the body and brings back suspended life."

Moral—Never own a swill barrel. First, because hogs should not have sour food; second, your chickens might drown in it!

Here is a piece of wisdom written fully 40 years ago: "Because a dunghill chicken was good enough for your grandfather, is no reason why it should be good enough for you. Stage coaches were good enough for him in their time, but are they good enough for the present generation? Surely we don't refuse the benefits conferred by steam, electricity and machinery, simply because our ancestors had no such blessings. You are not satisfied to breed horses that can trot a mile in three or three and a half minutes, because that was the highest speed attained in your grandfather's times; and why not carry the same ideas of improvement into the poultry yard?"

The *Indiana Farmer* says there are men who raise poultry by the thousands and with a percentage of loss not much greater than those who raise but a few.

BARRED ROCK EGGS from yard headed by Cockerel from A. C. Hawkins. Hens are large, nice shape, well marked, and good layers. \$1.00 for 13. A few settings Indian Game eggs, yard headed by first Cockerel, Washington, D. C., December, '97. \$2.00 per 13. Pekin Duck eggs, Pollard stock, \$1.00 per 13. C. C. SHORB, McDaniel, Md.

PIT GAMES. Eggs, \$1.50 per 15. C. G. BAXTER, Merchantville, N. J.

Eggs for hatching from prize winning Lt. Brah., S. C. W. and Br. Leg., W. Wyant, Bl. Langs., B. P. Rocks; \$1.00 pr. 13; \$2.00 per 30. S. J. Lowe, Columbia, Del.

THE UNEEDA

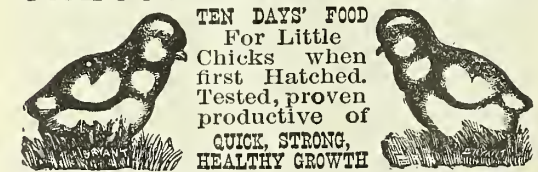
Trap nest catches the hen and tells the color of the egg, the size, and the number that hen lays during the year. If you are interested write for circular. W. M. LLOYD, Tuckahoe, N. Y.

UTILITY POULTRY FARM

Breeder of Practical Barred Plymouth Rocks and Single Comb White Leghorns. With the object of egg production and market poultry always in view. Stock for sale, both young and old, at all times. I have 50 good, one-year-old breeders for sale at \$1.00 each. Satisfaction guaranteed. FRANK A. D. BULLARD, Segreganset, Mass.

PEERLESS LEG BANDS. POULTRY PRINTING Circulars and sample leg band free. Get my prices on up-to-date printing. "Peerless Leg Bands" STAY ON and STAY BRIGHT. They are made of Aluminum. Price postpaid, 12, 30c; 25, 50c; 50, 75c; 100, \$1.25. State breed. B. F. Huntington, Platteville, Wis.

THE F. P. C. CHICK MANNA



Highly Prized by POULTRY RAISERS.

Send for Descriptive Price List of the F. P. C. PREPARATIONS for POULTRY, HORSES, CATTLE, Etc.

MANUFACTURED ONLY BY F. P. CASSEL, Lansdale, Pa.

Sold in the east by Joseph Breck & Sons, Boston; Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., New York City; Harvey Seed Co., Buffalo, New York; Johnson & Stokes, Philadelphia, Pa.

Their success is due to their personal attention, and the strict observance of proper feeding, good houses, sanitary conditions; in fact, the carrying out of all little things in careful detail that experience has taught them to be necessary.

The hen will lay on an average nine dozen eggs in a year, and perhaps hatch two broods, though some hens have been known to lay as many as fifteen dozen. A turkey seldom lays over two dozen eggs; a goose, three dozen; a duck, eight dozen; and a guinea, eight dozen, says *American Stock-Keeper*. These figures are not exact; however, we have known flocks of geese to only average 20 eggs, though individuals have laid as many as 40. A flock of turkeys often will not average 20, but hens may be induced to lay more by taking away the eggs. Guineas are prolific, and if deprived of their eggs sometimes excel the hens. A duck will lay anywhere from 50 to 150 eggs.

Broilers in winter, ducks in summer, says *Western Farm Journal*, is a combination which is being followed by many of the large poultry farms. Starting with September they run the incubators on hen eggs, and about March they change to duck eggs. In that way both broilers and ducklings are ready for market at their regular season. It is an excellent plan. We also know of farmers who do not run incubators, but resort solely to hens for hatching. In the early spring, as soon as the hens become broody, they set them with hens' eggs, and then about June they stop setting hens' eggs, using the eggs from ducks in place. This is kept up until the end of the duck season, which is the last of August. The chickens and ducks are then marketed. From September to the end of winter the eggs laid by the hens are marketed. In that way a regular income comes from the feathered tribe.

Poultry breeders seem to have failed to discover the value of tar. It is very useful and valuable in many ways, says *Farmer's Magazine*. When the scourge of the poultryman, chicken cholera, makes its appearance we would advise first, a thorough cleansing of the house; next a generous application of Carolina tar on all the joints, cracks and crevices of the inside of the buildings, and then plenty of fresh whitewash properly applied. The tar absorbs or drives away the taint of disease and makes the premises wholesome. The smell is not very offensive, in fact, many people like it, and it is directly the opposite to unhealthy. To vermin, lice, etc., the smell of tar is very repulsive, and but few will remain after you have tarred the cracks, etc. A friend of ours in Maryland was once troubled with chicken cholera, and, by adopting the above in connection with removing the affected fowls, he soon put a stop to the ravages. A small lump of tar in the drinking water supplied to the fowls will be found beneficial, provided it is the Carolina tar, and not that known as gas tar, which is very different.

Our Market Report.

CHICAGO.

People We Know.

An Accurate Account of the Highest, Lowest and Average Prices for the Best Market Stock, Paid During the Month of May—Goods Not up to the Standard Received Proportionately Less.

Furnished A FEW HENS by the Sprague Commission Co., 218 So. Water St., Chicago, Ill.

Facts and News Gleaned for A FEW HENS About People We Know.

NEW YORK.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Av..
Fresh eggs.....	17	14	15
Philada. Roasting Chickens,	24	22	23
Broilers.....	50	35	42 1-2
Fowls.....	14	11	12 1-4
Ducks.....	25	20	21 3-4
Turkeys.....			
Capons.....	25	25	25

Furnished A FEW HENS by Dulany & Branin, 41 Hewitt Avenue, New York City.

PHILADELPHIA.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Av..
Fresh Eggs.....	15	13	13 3-4
Hens, live.....	12	11	11 3-4
Hens, dressed	12 1-2	11	11 3-4
Roasting Chickens, live....			
Roasting Chickens, dressed			
Old Roosters, live.....	8	7	7 1-8
Old Roosters, dressed	8	8	8
Broilers, live	30	21	26 1-2
Broilers, dressed	37	25	33 1-16
Frying chickens, live.....	20	17	18 1-3
Frying chickens, dressed..	28	20	23 1-3
Capons.....			
Capons, slips.....			
Ducks, live.....	9	9	9
Ducks, dressed			
Geese, live.....			
Geese, dressed			
Turkeys, live....			
Turkeys, dressed			

Furnished A FEW HENS by Philip Quigley, 303 South Front St., Philadelphia, Pa.

DO YOU WANT LAYERS? My Barred Plymouth Rocks are bred for business. Will sell a few sittings for \$2.00 per 15. Eggs from pure-bred Pekin Ducks \$1.00 per 11. Stock for sale in the fall. GEORGE H. BUTLER, Eliot, Maine.

I. K. FELCH & SON,
Box K, Natick, Mass.

Light Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks, and White Wyandottes,
—BRED ON PRACTICAL LINES.—
Standard Points and Egg Records Combined.
Enclose stamps for 24 page catalogue.

BOSTON.

Furnished A FEW HENS by Bennett, Rand & Co., 20 North Market St., Boston, Mass.

	Highest.	Lowest.	Av..
Eggs, nearby and Cape	17	15	15 3-5
Eggs, Eastern,	15 1-2	14	14 1-2
Eggs, Vt. and N. H.....	15 1-2	14	14 1-2
Eggs, West'n, selected fresh	15	13	14 1-8
Eggs, Southern	14	13	13 1-2
Eggs, Refrigerator			
Eggs, Lined.....			
Eggs, Duck.....	15	14	14 2-5
Eggs, Goose.....	20	20	20
NORTHERN and EASTERN.			
Chickens, dressed.....	20	20	20
Chickens, live.....			
Fowls, dressed	14	14	14
Fowls, live.....	12	10 1-2	11 1-2
Roosters, live.....	7	7	7
Broilers, nearby.....	35	35	35
Chickens, Jersey.....	18	18	18
Fowls, Jersey.....	13	13	13
Ducks, dressed	18	18	18
Geese, dressed.....			
WESTERN DRY-PACKED:			
Turkeys,	13	13	13
Turkeys, old toms.....	11	11	11
Chickens.....	13	13	13
Fowls.....	11	11	11
Ducks.....	11	11	11
Geese.....	10	10	10
Old cocks	8	8	8
Capons, large.....			
Capons, small and medium			
Capons, slips.....			

CUT CLOVER in sacks. \$1.25 for 100 pounds. J. G. QUIRIN, Tioga Center, N. Y.

OUR WHITE WYANDOTTES are bred for business. Great brown egg layers. \$1.00 for 15. GEO. H. BROWN, Whately, Mass.

THE RECORDER NEST BOX. Do you want your 200-egg bird, and the egg? Do you want your earliest layers, your infertile egg layers, and your egg eaters? If you do, write for circular. W. M. LLOYD, Tuckahoe, N. Y.

EGGS from the following varieties—15 to setting. S. C. B. Leghorns, Kulp and Wittman strains. 75c. Wh. Wyandottes, Duston's strain. 75c.; E. B. Thompson's Ringlet Bd. Rocks. \$1.00. All good pens. Bd. Rock Cock, 10 lbs. Daniel O'Neil, Bloomsburg, Pa.

No Matter What Kind of Foods You Use!

Sheridan's Condition Powder

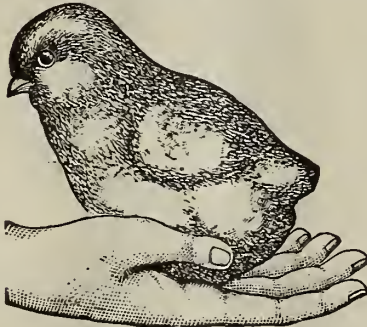
is needed with it to assure perfect assimilation of the food elements necessary to produce eggs. It is absolutely pure; Highly concentrated; Most economical, because such small doses; No other kind one-fourth as strong; In quantity costs less than one-tenth cent a day per hen. In use over 30 years.

Sold by Druggists, Grocers and Feed Dealers, or sent by mail. Large cans most economical to buy. IF YOU CAN'T GET IT NEAR HOME, SEND TO US. ASK FIRST. We send one pack, 25 cts; five, \$1.00. A two-pound can, \$1.20; Six, \$5.00. Express paid. Sample copy "best Poultry paper" sent free. I. S. JOHNSON & CO., 22 Custom House St., Boston, Mass.

Keep Your Chickens

STRONG and HEALTHY.

Those who succeed best raising poultry for profit are those who commence with little chicks, giving small doses of SHERIDAN'S CONDITION POWDER twice a week; then a little larger doses, and so on to the time when getting the pullets ready for early fall laying, a dose say of one teaspoonful to each quart of food, and so continue to use it, as one customer says she does, "from the cradle to the grave," and you will succeed nine times in ten, and have plenty of eggs to sell in the fall and winter months when prices are highest.



To make your Poultry

pay, first hatch Strong,

Healthy Chickens.

Then keep them healthy and growing if you want the Pullets to lay when five months old. When hens lay eggs for hatching, mix in their food every other day, SHERIDAN'S POWDER. It strengthens the hens; makes the rooster more vigorous; finally you get more fertile eggs.

It is a fact based upon the declaration of a noble contributor to science, that through the medium of the circulating blood, any particular organ of a living animal may be reached and stimulated into renewed vigor and activity if we will only administer the proper material to produce the desired effect.

W. W. Clough, Medway, Mass., still holds the fort as a bantam breeder. His specialties are Buff, White and Black Cochins, Silver and Golden Sebrights.

There is no better dog for a poultry farm than the Scotch Collie, and no better firm to buy them from than the Maplewood Stock Farm, Albany, Vermont.

Read the big reduction in price of eggs as advertised by W. R. Curtiss & Co., Ransomville, N. Y. They are certainly giving a bargain that should be respected.

Geo. A. Hurbert, Cuyler, N. Y., sends A FEW HENS a photograph of White Wyandottes as bred by him. There are certainly some grand birds represented in the picture.

C. K. Nelson, Hammonton, N. J., will sell eggs for hatching at one dollar per sitting. Mr. Nelson has heavy-laying White Wyandottes, and it will pay to secure a sitting.

The Willowhurst Brahma Yards, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is devoted to the Higley strain of Light Brahmas. Those interested in that breed should write as above for circular.

I. K. Felch & Son, Natick, Mass., report a great business this season. This is one of the substantial firms of the country. We doubt if any man is better known in poultry circles than Uncle Isaac.

If there are any better layers in the Brahma family than the Felch strain, we have failed to find them. The Felch birds are the foundation for all the practical strains of Light Brahmas in this country.

F. A. P. Coburn, Lowell, Mass., is gaining a reputation second to none for White Wyandottes and Barred Plymouth Rocks. Mr. Coburn aims to have the best, and always tries to fully please his customers.

Dr. F. E. Colby, Bow Mills, N. H., has won great fame with his Barred Plymouth Rocks, and is also a strong rival in the White Wyandotte circle. We like to recommend such men as Dr. Colby, as it bespeaks for our customers proper treatment.

The Prairie State Incubator Co., Homer City, Pa., are preparing to issue a new catalogue that will eclipse any heretofore gotten out by this firm. As all their previous catalogues have been master pieces, the poultry world can look for something fine.

A FEW HENS has been favored, through the courtesy of Arthur E. Felch, Natick, Mass., with a copy of the proceedings of the American Poultry Association, at the 23d annual meeting at Toronto, Ont., January 11 and 12, 1899. It is a neatly gotten up report.

If you have a cool place to sit a hen, try some of the cheap eggs advertised in this issue. Messrs. Sharp Bros., the famous breeders of prize-winning Cochins and Bantams, prefer July hatches, and their stock is a good testimonial. But do not write them for eggs, as they will not dispose of any.

OTTER CREEK POULTRY FARM, Vergennes, Vt. Light Brahmas, B. P. Rocks and W. Wyandottes; brown eggs and bred for business. Eggs that will hatch, 15 for \$1; 60 for \$3; 100 for \$4.

W. WY. EGGS: 15, \$1; 30, \$1.75; 60, \$3. Norton laying strain. P. Duck same price. Rankin strain. Golden Rule Poultry Farm, C. A. DUNLAP, Falmouth, Me.

The Fanciers' Review,

CHATHAM, N. Y.

A 16-page Poultry Journal of National Circulation.

50 Cts. a Year, including a Poultry Book.

Your Choice of one of the following: "Art of Poultry Breeding," or "Uncle Rastus' Poultry Book" (humorous). Without book, the price of the paper is

ONLY 35 CENTS A YEAR.

The most practical Poultry Journal published. Mr. Davis writes from three to four pages a month, and as a practical writer on poultry topics he is without a peer. "Questions and Answers" are a valuable feature. Being popular, THE REVIEW is an excellent advertising medium, and rates are low. Send 10 cents for three specimen numbers.

START NOW. START RIGHT.

The **RELIABLE NEST BOX** points out each layer and her egg. Simple, reliable, safe, cheap. Material costs but 10 cents per nest. Eggs collected at feeding times. Complete plans and directions of three styles, sent for only \$1.00. Circular and testimonials free.

M. L. NEWELL, Box 179, Denver, Colo.

WHITE Wyandottes

ONLY.

Golden Egg Strain.

I have some yearling hens for sale. Same that I have bred from. I shall have some fine Golden Egg chickens by and by. Incubator eggs, \$6 per 100. WM. E. SARGENT, Lancaster, Mass.

All for One Dollar!

Profitable Poultry Farming, retail,	- 25 Cents.
A Living From Poultry,	- 25 "
Broilers for Profit,	- 50 "
Farm-Poultry Doctor,	- 50 "
A Few Hens, monthly, one year,	- 25 "
Total,	\$1.75.

By ordering at once will send the above collection for \$1.00. Address,

MICHAEL K. BOYER,

Box A, HAMMONTON, (Atlantic Co.,) New Jersey
Established 1855.

BENNETT, RAND & CO.,

Commission Merchants,

POULTRY, GAME, BUTTER, EGGS, Etc.

Nos. 19 and 20 North Market Street,
and 19 Clinton Street, BOSTON, MASS.

Dulany & Branin,

(Successors to Haines & Branin.)

Commission Merchants,

Philadelphia Poultry; Broilers, Roasters, Fancy Capons, Squabs and Eggs.

JOHNSON'S ANODYNE LINIMENT

Relieves Every Form of Inflammation.

The safe, soothing, satisfying family remedy for Internal as much as External use. Originated in 1810 by an old Family Physician.

DROPPED SUGAR
WILL CURE COLDS CROUP COUGHS CHOLERA CRAMPS CHILLS COLIC



It has no equal as a healing, penetrating Anodyne for burns, bruises, bronchitis, catarrh, sore muscles, all skin eruptions.

EVERY MOTHER SHOULD Have it in the House

for many common ailments which will occur in every family. She can trust a remedy that has been in use for almost a century.

Our book on INFLAMMATION sent free. Directions with every bottle. At druggists. Price 35c. I. S. Johnson & Co., Boston, Mass.

PARSONS' PILLS. ONE A DOSE. Physicians say they are Best Liver Pill made for Biliousness, Sick Headache, all Liver troubles. Price, 25 cts. by mail, I. S. JOHNSON & Co., Boston, Mass.

Prof. Samuel Cushman, Pawtucket, R. I., says the Rhode Island Reds are the most practical fowl in the American class. No man in America is better able to judge than Prof. Cushman, and on his recommendation A FEW HENS Experimental Farm is making tests this year with this comparatively new variety.

To make poultry pay, first hatch strong healthy chickens. Then keep them healthy and growing if you want the pullets to lay when five months old. When hens lay eggs for hatching, mix in their food, every day, Sheridan's Condition Powder. It strengthens the hens; makes the rooster more vigorous; finally you get more fertile eggs.

J. H. Drevenstedt's paper, the *American Fancier*, Johnstown, N. Y., improves with each issue. It is a weekly devoted to the fancy, but each issue contains considerable matter of value to the practical breeder. Mr. Drevenstedt as a judge, editor, and poultryman, has no superior, and believes that in no case should the utility qualities of a breed be hampered to gain points of value for beauty only.

Neponset paper, manufactured by F. W. Bird & Son, East Walpole, Mass., can be put to many uses on a poultry farm. A FEW HENS can testify to its worth. The roofs and sides of the hen houses, chick coops and incubator house are covered with this paper. Several experiments are now being made to ascertain its worth in an incubator house, and which will shortly be noted in A FEW HENS. We could not "keep house" without it.

Bay Settlement, Wis., Feb. 15, 1899.

Geo. H. Lee Co., Omaha, Nebr.—I think that your Lice Killer is the best thing on the market, also your Tonic Powder. I think it is a great egg producer. This spring I am going to build up a large hennery. I do not dread lice so much since I heard of your Lice Killer. I would not be without it for any money. Whenever I am in need of things I will favor you. Yours respectfully, William Denis.

Montclair, N. J., Feb. 16, 1899.

Geo. H. Lee Co., Omaha, Nebr.—The Lice Killer works to perfection and is the best stuff I have seen for the purpose. Yours truly,

D. B. Dennis, 28 Montclair Ave.

The Excelsior Wire and Poultry Supply Co., 28 Vesey street, New York city, sends us the following letter: "We beg leave to notify that May 8th a party purchasing goods under the name of James F. Brannigan, 25 East 14th St., New York city, under the line of poultry supplies, was convicted and plead guilty in Part 1 of the Criminal Court of New York City, through the efforts of Mr. W. V. Russ and others. You can notify the trade accordingly, and refer you to Mr. Thomas Byrne, Room 4, of the District Attorney's office as to verification of this statement. This party has purchased goods under the name of James F. Brannigan, W. S. Clark, W. C. Dodson & Co., Baltimore, and many other aliases too numerous to mention.

To the Poultry Public:

Being interested in the breeding and rearing of poultry, you should be interested in a paper which teaches orthodox poultry truth.

Poultry Topics

does this in a clear, forcible and convincing manner. Send us your name and address plainly written on a postal card, and we will send you the paper **one month free**. You will then see and know its good qualities. It will pay you.

POULTRY TOPICS,
10 P. O. Building, Warsaw, Mo.

